

Silent Running – Chapter 1

Silent Running (On Dangerous Ground)

Take the children and yourself
And hide out in the cellar
By now the fighting will be close at hand
Don't believe the church and state
And everything they tell you
Believe in me, I'm with the high command
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?

There's a gun and ammunition
Just inside the doorway
Use it only in emergency
Better you should pray to God
The Father and the Spirit
Will guide you and protect from up here

Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?

Swear allegiance to the flag
Whatever flag they offer
Never hint at what you really feel
Teach the children quietly
For some day sons and daughters
Will rise up and fight while we stood still

Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?

Can you hear me running (can you hear me calling you?)
(Can you hear me) hear me calling you?
(Can you hear me running) hear me running babe?
(Can you hear me running) hear me running?
Calling you, calling you

I'm sure you remember the song by Mike and the Mechanics, it described the situation absolutely. I first became aware of what might happen on Thursday, October 19, 2006 when I read a piece about an American General dated Friday, Nov. 21, 2003:

Gen. Tommy Franks said that if the United States is hit with a weapon of mass destruction that inflicted large casualties, the Constitution will likely be discarded in favor of a military form of government. Franks, who successfully led the US military operation to liberate Iraq, expressed his worries in an extensive interview he gave to the men's lifestyle magazine Cigar Aficionado. You're kidding, right? The other day, Bush signed into law the Military Commissions Act which effectively places any and all persons (including American citizens) beyond the protection of the Writ of Habeas Corpus and most of the Bill of Rights. For the first time since 1776, citizens can be arrested, confined and (yes, I'll call a spade, a spade) tortured at the whim of a single ruler/President. What did "We The People" do about it? Nothing, Nada, Zip.

It came back to bite us on the butt, but at the time, I was busy getting ready for WW III, not the Second American Revolution. Although, when I think about it, it came down to the same darn thing, in far too many ways. How was I preparing? Well, I live in the People's Republik of Kalifornia, so I was breaking laws right and left.

I bought a Kalifornia legal M1A loaded rifle with a synthetic stock, about 3,000 rounds of South African .308 surplus and the Package from KI4U. I also bought a ten pack of 20-round magazines from Ammoman and had them shipped to Arkansas plus 5 30-round M16 magazines and had them shipped elsewhere. They all ended up in Palmdale, the T-57 mags for me and the M16 mags for Ron to use in his Kel-Tec Su-16.

Around the end of the month, Sharon had returned home from Iowa and we got her a new dryer, upright 21ft³ freezer and began to fill the shelves in the garage with food and the freezer with meat. I had converted Sharon into believing in preps, she thought we could end up in WW III. That's how I was able to get a 7kw generator and 3 drums of gas stabilized with PRI-G.

In November, the Democrats got back the House and Senate, barely. The Republicans were po'd about that and it appeared we'd have a lame duck government for the next couple of years, neither party could agree on anything resulting in a backhanded recall of our troops because there was no money to pay for the worsening war.

Derek had completed his tour of active duty on Saturday, 10/21 and had returned to Gassville. They came out to visit between Christmas and New Years of 2006. He filled me in a little on his duties in Iraq and they took the kids to Sea World on the free tickets provided returning soldiers.

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"I'm not happy about that Military Commissions Act. Especially if they combine it with the USA PATRIOT Act. Tommy Franks said if we were ever attacked with a nuclear

WMD, a military government would probably take over. The new Passports and now the driver's licenses will all meet Federal standards. Plus, they have the 4473s on all the guns people have purchased recently."

"What about that FN FAL you talked about getting me?"

"I'll talk to Sharon about it and we'll work something out. You'd better buy SA surplus if you can find any, otherwise get some Lake City overruns from Ammoman. I'm sending Rambo I and III back with you, sharpen I and return it; you can keep III."

"Thanks. What's this nonsense about Gen. Franks?"

"It's about the military taking over running the country if we're attacked with a WMD. China must have threatened North Korea with something serious; Kim Jong Il said he was sorry for the test. I wouldn't be surprised if we were attacked by some of those Iranian Jihadists. They vowed to make Israel disappear."

Derek had filled me in a little on his tour in Iraq. I can't repeat what he told me, it was a little bit of *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. It was clear that he didn't want to go back under any circumstances. Knowing him, he'd go if he got orders but wouldn't like it. He still had enough time on this enlistment in the Guard to cover one more trip.

Another thing that had me concerned was the federal requirement that all state drivers' licenses conform to a new federal standard or the feds wouldn't accept them as ID. I also needed to renew my Passport. Sharon had gotten one of the new ones that had the chip. My Kalifornia ID card was good until 2009, but I'd probably have to replace it early to meet the new federal requirements.

I hadn't been a champion of the USA PATRIOT Act, it wiped out part of the Bill of Rights. The Military Commission Act wiped out the rest. I was considering voting for a Democrat, for the first time in my life, in the 2008 elections. I think they call that collateral damage. The title of this piece is *Silent Running*. It's a song and also a movie that starred Bruce Dern. The last vegetation on the planet was stored in spaceships and Dern fought when they tried to destroy the last forest. I believe it was also a warning; the founding fathers must be turning over in their graves.

That said, I only thought the song was written for the Dern movie. It was actually written for *Choke Canyon*, an action adventure movie that panned at the box office.

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They, the government, had done it one piece at a time beginning in 1934 with the National Firearms Act. With their first successful assault on the Bill of Rights, one might have thought that the government was on a roll and would continue. Those were different times and it wasn't until the Vietnam War that they assaulted the 2nd Amendment again with the GCA of '68, eliminating mail order firearms. I'll tell you right now; the gov-

ernment was gathering steam, over the next 30+ years they defanged the 2nd Amendment more and then started in on the others, using the excuse of the attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon on 9/11/01.

The turning point when money became worthless was in 1965 when they eliminated 90% silver coins. Then, tricky Dicky eliminated the gold standard. From that point on, money was nothing but printed paper. It wasn't backed by anything but your faith and trust in the government. Another thing that happened after 9/11 was the resurfacing of the suggestion of a National ID Card. There was a hue and cry over that so they turned sneaky, first implementing the Passport with the chip and then, in 2006, mandating uniformity in state driver licenses. 2006 was also the year I quit talking about preparedness and began to do it.

Sharon had a Fen Phen settlement and we got ourselves out of debt except for the car and house payments and set a goal of having a six-month supply of food on hand. With the 7 gallons in the generator's tank plus another 35 gallons of gas in 7 cans, we could keep the food frozen for quite a while if we should lose power. I guess I went crazy, it was around the time that Kim set off that nuke and I got ready for a radioactive emergency too. I had wanted a M1A for several years, but now I was glad I waited. I would have bought a Standard model earlier but instead, I bought the Loaded model. It had a medium weight, air gauged, match barrel with 6 1:11 rifling grooves.

In the election, we'd reelected Arnold, the better choice, not the best choice. Arnold was the Governor who signed the Bill outlawing .50 caliber rifles. We didn't have a choice, Governor Moonbeam was running for Attorney General and there was some thought he might try to be Governor again. At least Linda Ronstadt wouldn't be first lady, and yes, she was still single but had gained weight due to a medical condition.

Because of the federal mandate, I went ahead and got the biometric Passport and the new Kalifornia ID Card, which didn't really please me. I knew down deep inside it was just a matter of time before someone attacked the country with a WMD and anyone without the proper ID would end up in some camp. My crystal ball was pretty clear these days; I got some new glass cleaner.

The definition of a Weapon of Mass Destruction includes: nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons. You knew that, huh? Wiki says, "A weapon of mass destruction (WMD) is a term used to describe munitions with the capacity to indiscriminately kill large numbers of human beings. The phrase broadly encompasses several areas of weapon synthesis, including nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) and, increasingly, radiological weapons (dirty bombs)." I have an addition to make to that list, American soldiers following illegal orders.

After the first of the year, we began to get the house ready for the market, planting replacement glass, painting and cleaning. Our last act before listing it would be to put down new carpet. In order to that, we had to do something about the dogs, none of them was house trained. When Amy finally got her job rolled over into a fulltime County

job, Sharon helped her to move her stuff into her own apartment. Amy temporarily boarded all of the pets, including Missy.

The housing market was soft and we were lucky to get \$300,000 for the house. After the commission, we had \$270,000 and paid off the \$90,000 balance of the house loan. We also paid off Amy's car because Sharon had co-signed on it. That left us right around \$170,000 to buy a new home, furnish it and construct some kind of bunker. We also needed a new vehicle; the Daewoo was kind of cramped. It was easy on gas and when the car was in the shop getting fixed, Enterprise provided a SUV that turned out to be made by Daewoo. Naturally, it had a computer that could be wiped out by EMP, but I could store gas in drums.

The main question was where to go. Iowa was out; Sharon didn't care for the weather. That also eliminated Arkansas, too much humidity. We didn't want to move to a location predominately inhabited by Kalifornians, leaving Vegas and Reno out of consideration. Where Fleataxi lived was in the mountains and that would be as bad as living in Iowa. It was quickly coming down to Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Ron said property in Cedar Hill was fairly expensive. He went on to say that Linda's Dad was planning on living to 200 and they probably wouldn't be moving over to live with his brother Robert.

The only thing I could think to tell him was, "Bye, we're leaving the PRK."

I had no problems with the idea of living with a group of LDS, but when you got right down to talking about it, there was always the question of the weather, basically eliminating Utah. We certainly wouldn't be locating in the Phoenix area for 3 reasons, lots of Kalifornians, high prices and the high heat we presumed we'd find in Phoenix and Tucson. It boiled down to my being right all along, and wrong at the same time, Sharon said that there was no way she'd live along I-40.

That quickly eliminated Holbrook and Winslow. We'd thought long and hard about the possibility of moving to Flagstaff, Flight ER Doc lived in the Sedona area. Despite Costco having a policy of not allowing persons to carry firearms in their stores, how many places could a person boycott? We put our things in storage along with Amy's, traded cars to get the Daewoo SUV Sharon thought so much of and I mounted a rifle rack behind the front seat for my M1A.

Because we couldn't make up our minds, we set out to explore various other locations in Arizona. We went down the road and bought a small trailer in Acton and we decided to load a few of our things in the enclosed trailer and hit the road.

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The United States Military Commissions Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-366, 120 Stat. 2600 (Oct. 17, 2006), enacting Chapter 47A of title 10 of the US Code, is an Act of Congress (Senate Bill 3930) signed by President Bush on 17Oct06. Drafted in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision on *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, the Act provides for contro-

versial practices relating to the US government's detention and treatment of alien prisoners.

Section 948b of title 10 of the United States Code, as enacted by the Act, provides (in part):

(a) Purpose. – This chapter establishes procedures governing the use of military commissions to try alien unlawful enemy combatants engaged in hostilities against the United States for violations of the law of war and other offenses triable by military commission.

Section 948d of title 10 of the United States Code, as added by the Act, providing for the jurisdiction of military commissions, states (in part):

A military commission under this chapter shall have jurisdiction to try any offense made punishable by this chapter or the law of war when committed by an alien unlawful enemy combatant before, on, or after September 11, 2001.

Section 948a of title 10 of the United States Code, as added by the Act, defines an “unlawful enemy combatant” as:

(i) a person who has engaged in hostilities or who has purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the United States or its co-belligerents who is not a lawful enemy combatant (including a person who is part of the Taliban, al Qaeda, or associated forces); or

(ii) a person who, before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, has been determined to be an unlawful enemy combatant by a Combatant Status Review Tribunal or another competent tribunal established under the authority of the President or the Secretary of Defense.

This definition does not exclude American citizens. Prior to the enactment, the phrase “unlawful enemy combatant” was applied by the Bush administration to at least 3 American citizens. See John Walker Lindh, José Padilla, Yaser Hamdi.

Section 948c of 10 USC, as added by the Act, states, “Any alien unlawful enemy combatant is subject to trial by military commission under this chapter” - with “alien” defined in section 948a(3) as “a person who is not a citizen of the United States”. The Act does not specify any provisions for trying unlawful enemy combatants who may be American citizens. There is disagreement over whether the Act's provisions could be applied to them as well – since 10 USC sec. 948c does not expressly exclude the possibility.

A “competent tribunal” is defined in the US Army Field Manual, section 27-10, for the purpose of determining whether a person is or is not entitled to prisoner-of-war status and consists of a board of not less than three officers. It is also a term defined in Article five of the third Geneva Convention.

The criteria by which a Combatant Status Review Tribunal might determine someone to be an unlawful enemy combatant under section ii of the definition is provided by the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, and referenced in section 10 of the Military Commissions Act of 2006. The Combatant Status Review Tribunal is to be comprised of three neutral officers, none of whom were involved with the detainee. One serves as a judge advocate and the senior ranking officer will serve as the president of the tribunal. Detainees may testify before the tribunal, call witnesses and introduce any other evidence. Following the hearing the tribunal will determine in a closed-door session whether the detainee is properly held as an enemy combatant. The criteria by which “another competent tribunal” might do so are specified Detainee Treatment Act of 2005.

The Act changes pre-existing law to explicitly disallow the invocation of the Geneva Conventions when executing the writ of habeas corpus or in other civil actions [Act sec. 5(a)]. This provision applies to all cases pending at the time the Act is enacted, as well as to all such future cases.

If the government chooses to bring a prosecution against the detainee, a military commission is convened for this purpose. The following rules are some of those established for trying alien unlawful enemy combatants:

- Certain sections of the Uniform Code of Military Justice are deemed inapplicable - including some relating to a speedy trial [10 USC sec. 948b(d)(1)(A)], compulsory self-incrimination [10 USC sec. 948b(d)(1)(B)], and pre-trial investigation [10 USC sec. 948b(d)(1)(C)].
- A civilian defense attorney may not be used unless the attorney has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information that is classified at the level Secret or higher. [10 USC sec. 949c(b)(3)(D)]
- Based on his findings, the judge may introduce hearsay evidence [10 USC sec. 949a(b)(2)(E)(i)], evidence obtained without a search warrant [10 USC sec. 949a(b)(2)(B)], evidence obtained when the degree of coercion is disputed [10 USC sec. 948r(d)], or classified evidence not made available to the defense [10 USC sec. 949d(f)(2)(B)].
- A finding of Guilty by a particular commission requires only a two-thirds majority of the members of the commission present at the time the vote is taken [10 USC sec. 949m(a)]
- In General – No person may invoke the Geneva Conventions or any protocols thereto in any habeas corpus or other civil action or proceeding to which the United States, or a current or former officer, employee, member of the Armed Forces, or other agent of the United States is a party as a source of rights in any court of the United States or its States or territories. [Act sec. 5(a)]
- As provided by the Constitution and by this section, the President has the authority for the United States to interpret the meaning and application of the Geneva Conventions and to promulgate higher standards and administrative regulations for violations of treaty obligations which are not grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. [Act sec. 6(a)(3)(A)]

- No person may, without his consent, be tried by a military commission under this chapter a second time for the same offense. [10 USC sec. 949h(a)].

The text of the law states that its “Purpose” is to “establish procedures governing the use of military commissions to try alien unlawful enemy combatants engaged in hostilities against the United States for violations of the law of war and other offenses triable by military commission.” Legal and Constitutional scholar Robert A. Levy commented that the Act denies habeas rights only to aliens, and that US citizens detained as “unlawful combatants” would still have habeas rights and could challenge their detention. While formally opposed to the Act, Human Rights Watch has also concluded that the new law limits the scope of trials by military commissions to non-US citizens including all legal aliens. CBS Legal expert Andrew Cohen has commented on this question and writes that the “suspension of the writ of habeas corpus – the ability of an imprisoned person to challenge their confinement in court – applies only to resident aliens within the United States as well as other foreign nationals captured here and abroad” and that “it does not restrict the rights and freedoms and liberties of US citizens any more than they already have been restricted”.

Aside from the harsh criticism levied on the bill, many see these complaints as hysterics. National Review columnist Andrew McCarthy argues that since the law applies to aliens with no immigration status they do not have a constitutional right to habeas corpus. McCarthy also notes that the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, while not allowing a standard habeas corpus review, still allows an enemy combatant the right to challenge his or her detention under a modified legal framework.

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We took 138 to 18 to I-15 and drove north to I-40. It was all uphill from there. We headed east, hoping to find somewhere to land. Most of the time, Sharon was a slow poke but when she got on the freeway, it was something to behold. I pointed out we were limited to 55mph pulling the trailer. If I hadn't said anything, she wouldn't have had a problem, but me and my big mouth.

I only had one agenda: staying alive. That might be easier said than done although in the PRK, it might be impossible. The majority of the population was liberal and hated everything I liked. They didn't like cigarettes and want them to cost about \$55 a carton. Neither did they want you to be able to defend yourself or your family. If you were on the freeway and going a bit slow or a little too fast, there was always a cop around to give you a ticket; if you broke down, there wasn't a cop within a country mile.

The PRK had a lot to offer, but you paid for it, big time. Kalifornia invented the US welfare system and later perfected it. Orange County was a Republican outpost assuming you could afford to live there. It produced such notables as Mary Kay Letourneau. Mary Kay's father was John G. Schmidt, a US Congressman from Orange County and a professor at Santa Ana College. He was generally considered one of the more conserva-

tive members of the House, and ran for President of the US in 1972 on the ultra-conservative American Independent Party ticket.

Her mother Mary Schmitz was a homemaker and anti-feminist activist. Mary Kay is one of seven children born to John and Mary, and she has two half-siblings that were the result of a longtime affair between her father and his mistress. Like father, like daughter?

Perhaps it would be well to point out early on that this tale of survival isn't my usual fare. Sorry, no significant natural disasters and the man-made disasters are small scale. With that in mind, I should point out that a single match or lightning strike can start a forest fire that will burn hundreds of thousands of acres. I had no idea pulling out of Kingman what we'd face in the coming days. If I had, I'd have insisted we drive on to Iowa. I had no place in Charles City because by now I was an outsider and far more liberal than that bunch of rednecks. And, keep in mind, I'm very conservative.

"Where to next?"

"Why don't you drive up to Fredonia and we'll eliminate that as a choice?"

"How do you get there?"

"Go to Flagstaff and turn left."

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That raghead in charge of Iran had said that in the first year of development, their nuclear program had increased 10-fold. If Gen. Casey was right, the last thing we needed was for some nut to detonate a nuclear weapon on our soil. Habeas corpus was suspended on 27Apr61, during the Civil War by President Lincoln in Maryland and parts of Midwestern states, including southern Indiana. He did so in response to riots; local militia actions; and the threat that the border slave state of Maryland would secede from the Union, leaving the nation's capital, Washington DC, surrounded by hostile territory.

Then, after Reconstruction, the Congress passed Posse Comitatus (18USC §1385) in 1878 to prevent federal troops from acting in a law enforcement capacity. The Posse Comitatus Act and the Insurrection Act (10USC §331) substantially limit the powers of the Federal government to use the military for law enforcement. The question of whether both remained in force after the USA PATRIOT Act had yet to be tested.

Our society was crumbling, morality was something people wrote plays about, the gangs weren't limited to young people; they were cartels. Schools could no longer enforce dress codes; it stepped on someone's individual rights. Somehow they found ways to get their machine guns past the metal detectors in the schools' entrances. I was happy we didn't have any small kids in school; buying them Dragon Skin would have put us in the poor house. I was a substitute teacher back in the late 90s; there was no way I

could envision arming some of those teachers. Most of them would sooner pick up a Black Mamba than a M1911.

“Where are we?”

“Arizona.”

“Yeah, got that, where in Arizona?”

“North of Flagstaff on highway Alt 89.”

“Alt 89? We must be getting close to Fredonia.”

“Don’t blink.”

“Huh?”

“If you blink, you’ll probably miss it.”

“Probably. I was just surprised you couldn’t find Derek at the Welcome Home ceremony at Camp Dodge.”

“The auditorium was packed, I tried. That’s why I bought you the DVD of the Ceremony.”

“I wish we could live near them.”

“I will not live in a town where the humidity is 98% at midnight.”

“What about Texas?”

“Where in Texas?”

“Paris is located at 33°39’45N, 95°39’52”W (33.662508, -95.547692). According to the US Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 115.0km² (44.4 mi²). 110.7 km² (42.8 mi²) of it is land and 4.3 km² (1.7 mi²) of it (3.74%) is water.”

“Paris is located in ‘Tornado Alley’, an area largely centered on the middle of the United States which sees tornados frequently. Paris is in USDA plant hardiness zone 7b for winter temperatures. This is cooler than its southern neighbor Dallas, and while similar to Atlanta, its warmer summertime temperatures must be accounted for as well. Summertime average highs reach 94 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August, with associated lows of 72 and 71. Winter temps drop to an average high of 51 and low of 30 in January. The highest temperature on record was 115, set in August of 1836, and the record low was -5 set in 1930. Average precipitation is 47.82 inches. Snow is not unusual, but is by no means predictable, and years can pass with no snowfall at all.”

Silent Running – Chapter 2

*Well, you can tell by the way I use my walk,
I'm a woman's man: no time to talk.
Music loud and women warm, I've been kicked around since I was born.
And now it's all right. It's OK. And you may look the other way.
We can try to understand the New York Times' effect on man.
Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother,

you're stayin' alive, stayin' alive.*

*Feel the city breakin' and everybody shakin',
and we're stayin' alive, stayin' alive.
Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive. Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive.
Well now, I get low and I get high, and if I can't get either, I really try.*

*Got the wings of heaven on my shoes. I'm a dancin' man and I just can't lose.
You know it's all right. It's OK. I'll live to see another day.
We can try to understand the New York Times' effect on man.
Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother,

you're stayin' alive, stayin' alive.*

*Feel the city breakin' and everybody shakin',
and we're stayin' alive, stayin' alive.*

*Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive. Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive.
Life goin' nowhere. Somebody help me. Somebody help me, yeah.
Life goin' nowhere. Somebody help me. Somebody help me, yeah.
Stayin' alive.*

*Well, you can tell by the way I use my walk,
I'm a woman's man: no time to talk. Music loud and women warm,
I've been kicked around since I was born. And now it's all right.
It's OK.*

*And you may look the other way. We can try to understand
the New York Times' effect on man.
Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother,

you're stayin' alive, stayin' alive.*

*Feel the city breakin' and everybody shakin',
and we're stayin' alive, stayin' alive.*

Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive. Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive.

*Life goin' nowhere. Somebody help me. Somebody help me, yeah.
Life goin' nowhere. Somebody help me, yeah. I'm stayin' alive.*

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"I guess we could go look."

"I'll find it on the map."

"Ok, take I-40 to Amarillo. Just east of there, pick up US 287 and then pick up US 81 at Henrietta and take that to Paris."

"Where will we be?"

"Northeast of Dallas when we get to Paris, but basically moving west to east just north of Dallas."

"You don't want to go to Dallas, do you?"

"Been there, done that, no thank you. About the only thing they have in Dallas I might enjoy seeing is the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. But, I can see them on TV."

"Texas was part of the Confederacy, weren't they?"

"About 150 years ago, yes. The last battle of the Civil War was fought in Texas."

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Union forces marched upriver from Brazos Santiago to attack the Confederate encampment, and were at first successful, due to the Confederates being under the understanding that hostilities had ceased. However, after some confusion and bitter fighting, the Union forces were then driven back by a relief Confederate force. The next day, the Union forces attacked again and again to initial success and later failure. Ultimately, the Union force retreated to the coast.

There were 118 Union casualties. Confederate casualties were "a few dozen" wounded, none killed. Like the war's first big battle at First Bull Run, which also yielded little gain for either side, the battle is recorded as a Confederate victory. Like the Battle of New Orleans, it occurred after the war was over and therefore could not affect the outcome. Texas armies formally surrendered on May 26, 1865; Confederate General Kirby Smith surrendered his forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department on June 2nd.

It is worth noting that Private John J. Williams of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry was the last man killed at the Battle at Palmito Ranch, and probably the last combat casualty of the war. Fighting in the battle were white, African, Hispanic and native troops. Re-

ports of shots from the Mexican side are unverified, though many witnesses reported firing from the Mexican shore.

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“You know, if the government keeps going the way they are going, we’re either going to have the 2nd American Revolution or the 2nd Civil War.”

“Why do you think that, Gary?”

“The government has all but wiped out the Bill of Rights with the USA PATRIOT Act and the Military Commissions Act. This country has a long history of becoming more civilized and taking away individual rights for the good of the people.”

“Maybe it will be better in Texas.”

“Maybe, but I wouldn’t count on it, Sharon.”

“What does your crystal ball tell you now?”

“If I had to guess, terrorists would use one or more Weapons of Mass Destruction on the country and the President would suspend Habeas Corpus and Posse Comitatus. He has a pile of Executive Orders that he can fall back on to enforce whatever he chooses. Basically, he can seize the entire country and put it under military control.”

“The population of the US is over 300 million. Our military is what, 2-3 million?”

“Yeah, but, they have the guns. Derek finally sort of told me what he really did in Iraq, but if I tell anyone, he said he’d have to kill me.”

“What was he doing?”

“Guard duty. Sometimes it was for convoys and sometimes it wasn’t. His vehicle got hit by a total of 6 IEDs, that’s why he’s as deaf as I am.”

“Why didn’t he tell you?”

“He said that he didn’t want me to worry.”

“But you worried anyway.”

“He said I’d only worry worse. He’s with the Arkansas National Guard now, in an E-6 slot at Marshall.”

“Did he get the extra stripe?”

“Not until he’s up to speed on his new MOS.”

“What about him getting sent back overseas?”

“It’s not going to happen for at least 5 years. Let me tell you how it really is, dear:”

“EO 10990 allows the government to take over all modes of transportation and control of highways and seaports.

“EO 10995 allows the government to seize and control the communication media.

“EO 10997 allows the government to take over all electrical power, gas, petroleum, fuels and minerals.

“EO 10998 allows the government to take over all food resources and farms.

“EO 11000 allows the government to mobilize civilians into work brigades under government supervision.

“EO 11001 allows the government to take over all health, education and welfare functions.

“EO 11002 designates the Postmaster General to operate a national registration of all persons.

“EO 11003 allows the government to take over all airports and aircraft, including commercial aircraft.

“EO 11004 allows the Housing and Finance Authority to relocate communities, build new housing with public funds, designate areas to be abandoned, and establish new locations for populations.

“EO 11005 allows the government to take over railroads, inland waterways and public storage facilities.

“EO 11051 specifies the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Planning and gives authorization to put all Executive Orders into effect in times of increased international tensions and economic or financial crisis.

“EO 11310 grants authority to the Department of Justice to enforce the plans set out in Executive Orders, to institute industrial support, to establish judicial and legislative liaison, to control all aliens, to operate penal and correctional institutions, and to advise and assist the President.

“Without Congressional approval, the President now has the power to transfer whole populations to any part of the country, the power to suspend the Press and to force a

national registration of all persons. The President, in essence, has dictatorial powers never provided to him under the Constitution. The President has the power to suspend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in a real or perceived emergency. Unlike Lincoln and Roosevelt, these powers are not derived from a wartime need, but from any crisis, domestic or foreign, hostile or economic. Roosevelt created extraordinary measures during the Great Depression, but any President faced with a similar, or lesser, economic crisis now has extraordinary powers to assume dictatorial status.

“EO 11049 assigns emergency preparedness function to federal departments and agencies, consolidating 21 operative Executive Orders issued over a fifteen-year period.

“EO 11921 allows the Federal Emergency Preparedness Agency to develop plans to establish control over the mechanisms of production and distribution, of energy sources, wages, salaries, credit and the flow of money in US financial institution in any undefined national emergency. It also provides that when the President declares a state of emergency, Congress cannot review the action for six months.

“EO 12148 created the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that is to interface with the Department of Defense for civil defense planning and funding. An ‘emergency czar’ was appointed. FEMA has only spent about 6 percent of its budget on national emergencies; the bulk of their funding has been used for the construction of secret underground facilities to assure continuity of government in case of a major emergency, foreign or domestic. Now FEMA is part of Homeland Security.

“EO 12656 appointed the National Security Council as the principal body that should consider emergency powers. This allows the government to increase domestic intelligence and surveillance of US citizens and would restrict the freedom of movement within the United States and granted the government the right to isolate large groups of civilians. The National Guard could be federalized to seal all borders and take control of US air space and all ports of entry. Many of the figures in the Iran-Contra scandal were part of this emergency contingent, including Marine Colonel Oliver North.”

“The Federal Emergency Management Agency has broad powers in every aspect of the nation. General Frank Salzedo, chief of FEMA’s Civil Security Division stated in a 1983 conference that he saw FEMA’s role as a ‘new frontier in the protection of individual and governmental leaders from assassination, and of civil and military installations from sabotage and/or attack, as well as prevention of dissident groups from gaining access to US opinion, or a global audience in times of crisis’.

“The Violent Crime Control Act of 1991 provides additional powers to the President of the United States, allowing the suspension of the Constitution and Constitutional rights of Americans during a ‘drug crisis’. It provides for the construction of detention camps, seizure of property, and military control of populated areas. This, teamed with the Executive Orders of the President, enables Orwellian prophecies to rest on whoever occupies the White House. The power provided by these ‘laws’ allows suspension of the Constitution and the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights during any civil disturbances,

major demonstrations and strikes and allows the military to implement government ordered movements of civilian populations at state and regional levels, the arrest of certain unidentified segments of the population, and the imposition of Martial Law.

“When the Constitution of the United States was framed it placed the exclusive legislative authority in the hands of Congress and with the President. Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution is concise in its language, ‘All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.’ That is no longer true. The Bill of Rights protected Americans against loss of freedoms. That is no longer true. The Constitution provided for a balanced separation of powers. That is no longer applicable.

“Then they passed the USA PATRIOT Act, and renewed it. We all know that FEMA became part of Homeland Security, but the Hurricane forced Michael Brown to resign. Then Congress got hold of FEMA and, well, you know the rest of that story. They’ve eroded the Constitution down to the point that the founding fathers wouldn’t recognize it.

“To compound that, the Congress passed the Military Commissions Act.”

“All I ask was if you had a list. You don’t need to lecture me on how corrupt the government has become, Gary.”

“I was just reminding you how we got in the position where we’re going to war with the United States of America, the most powerful military in the world.”

◦

“We’re here, where is the Eiffel Tower?”

“It’s northeast of here, about 7,800km.”

“No it’s not, it’s right over there.”

“Huh! It’s not as tall as the one in Las Vegas. What would you say, 60’?”

“I don’t know, but the town looks good to me, I’ve seen Chinese restaurants, Tex-Mex places and several Barbeques.”

“From what I see Sharon, this is farming country. I think we should fit right in. It will only take about a week before we’re saying y’all just like the natives.”

“Do you want to live in town or out in the country?”

“Out of town, if possible, we can check with that realtor over there after we eat.”

We found a lot that was 0.95 acre for \$5,000 southwest of town. It had REA, Private Water and Septic. From my viewpoint, it was perfect. Sharon liked it too and I began to try and figure out where to put the storm shelter. I had the perfect excuse, tornadoes. I might have been cheaper to buy a shelter from Utah Shelter Systems, but to tell you the truth, I didn't want to live in a culvert and they had a waiting list. Sharon and I talked it over and decided to spend \$10,000 on a pair of ANDAIR AV-150s and one PT2 vertical blast door which ran \$3,500. We ordered them immediately because they had to come by air freight from Switzerland. I had the shelter fully designed, in my mind, and it was simply a matter of getting the things for inside, including a Kohler 30REOZJB, diesel generator. It was the non-emissions certified model that used from 100% 2.6gph, 75% 2.1gph, 50% 1.5gph and 25% 1.0gph and the Decision Maker controller with a maximum 125 amp capacity at 240v.

The prime power ratings apply to installations where utility power is unavailable or unreliable. At varying load, the number of generator set operating hours is unlimited. A 10% overload capacity is available for one hour in twelve. Ratings are in accordance with ISO-8528/1, overload power in accordance with ISO-3046/1, BS 5514, AS 2789, and DIN 6271. General Guidelines for duration were Altitude: Derate 1.3% per 100 m (328 ft.) elevation above 2000 m (6560 ft.). Temperature: Derate 1.0% per temperature above 40°C (104°F). The engine was a John Deere, model 3029TF150. Engine type 4-Cycle, turbocharged cylinder arrangement 3 inline. Basically, we didn't have to derate the generator one bit for the area and we needed a large diesel tank. It was totally doable in this area.

Sharon selected the Fleetwood Beacon Hill Series D with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths with 2,280ft² and added the 4' stretch, making it 2,560ft²; the optional activity room for her and optional study for me. I didn't mind one bit because that was exactly what I wanted. I believe you knew the drill, right? We did the required concrete wall thickness for the door (10"). Sharon Draper was about \$13,500 richer and we were very secure with plenty of air to breathe. She had the \$170 grand to blow and between us, we did a pretty good job.

Almost anyway. Let me tell, you by the time we had that storm shelter fully fixed up with the 10' risers so we could have 8' of compacted soil for the really good protection factor, the money was getting gone. You know that ramp had to go nearly all the way around the storm shelter so the ramp wasn't too steep in case I actually had to use that stupid wheelchair. Fortunately, we were able to afford that combat wheelchair, too. I was going to need it because of all the guns I wanted. The old wheelchair didn't go to waste, now we both had a wheelchair.

What was it I wanted for firearms? Well, since you asked, I'll tell you. I had my M1A Loaded with the Red Dot sight, a M1A Super Match with the really nice Leopold 4.5-14x50mm LR/T M1 Illuminated Reticule variable scope, Ruger SR-556 Rifle, used Winchester 9422 XTD, Mossberg 590A1 and a Taurus PT1911B. My rule of thumb for ammo was 5,000 rounds per MBR/AR, 10,000 of .22LR, and 2,000 rounds for the pistol and shotgun. Plus I'd always wanted a Barrett M82A1M and a cart to carry it on. 1,000

rounds of Raufoss should do nicely, but if I had a second round, it would be APIT. Given the choice, I'd suppress everything but the .22 and the shotgun. I favored those pricey Surefire suppressors; they'll outlast your barrel. To tell the truth, I had a ways to go, I only had a M1A Loaded rifle with iron sights and a .32 caliber pistol.

The contractor insisted I was crazy wanting 10" thick walls and a 12" thick overhead. I asked him if he'd ever heard of Charles City where an F-5 tornado hit on May 15, 1968. We compromised the wall and overhead would be as thick as required to properly install the PT-2 blast door, which was 10" minimum. In the end, I got my way and paid for it, it took twice as much concrete. His men excavated a hole large enough for the basement and the ramp, the actual size of the shelter would be the same as the house, 32'x80'.

Apparently this guy had never built a storm shelter like this before. We ended up paying one of Sharon Packer's installation experts to make sure the systems were properly installed. The volume of the shelter was 20,480ft³. Depending on the number of people, we'd probably have to run both air systems full time. We also installed lithium hydroxide CO₂ scrubbers and had spare canisters. It wasn't that difficult to find a good used diesel tank and have it checked for leaks. Because we were only using propane for the stove and furnace, we rented a 1,100 gallon tank.

Sharon said that once we were in the house and settled, she'd think about me spending more money on firearms. She didn't say I could buy more, just that she'd think about it. I had to order a CD V-717 and a CD V-700 from Shane Connor to supplement the CD V-715 I already had. While I was at it, I bought one more charger and several more dosimeters. Once the house was installed, we arranged to have the oak furniture moved from California. In retrospect, it would have been cheaper to sell it and buy new.

In the fall of '06, Newsweek had run a poll asking if Bush should be impeached. I couldn't believe it, the majority said yes. The liberals all thought Bush was a fascist or something. Admittedly, the country appeared headed in the wrong direction; I had some concerns, but a fascist? And what was this bit about Bush buying almost 100,000 acres in Paraguay? Let me tell you, he can run, but he can't hide!

o

We got settled in the new home and added 500 gallons of diesel every month, more when the price dipped. It was done on a fixed budget, \$1,000 a month until both the propane and diesel tanks were filled. The REA was reliable; so far we hadn't had a power outage which was more than I could say for Palmdale. They always happened about 2 seconds before you saved your work on your computer.

"Do we have any money left; I'd like to consider those guns now."

"First, we stock the larder; we'll take the trailer to Sam's Club and stock up."

"How much ground beef do we have?"

“Not much, I prefer Ribeyes.”

“But, my teeth get tired.”

“Gary, there’s no room in the freezer for more ground beef.”

“Fine, buy a second freezer.”

“Wouldn’t the meat freezer burn?”

“Not if we double wrap and it vacuum pack it.”

“So, tell me, what are you going to do to finish off the storm shelter?”

“We ran conduits so we could put in TV, radio antennas and so forth. I was thinking maybe an electric counter top with 4 burners in the kitchen area plus a large refrigerator. I thought maybe we could build a storeroom that we could lock down opposite the utility room.”

“What utility room?”

“Oh, the room with the generator, washer and dryer.”

“You’re going to buy another washer and dryer?”

“Yep, but it can be bottom of the line as far as I’m concerned.”

“What about tables and chairs?”

“How about 8’ folding tables and padded folding chairs. Think about it, if we have to use the shelter for anything other than a storm, we’ll be sitting for a very long time.”

“Do you have a list of everything you want?”

“I do, how about you?”

“Between buying the land, putting in the storm shelter and the house, we have about \$40,000 left. I want to keep 25% of that back for emergencies. I let you have \$5,000 to buy whatever guns you want and another \$5,000 for anything else you need. We’ll stock the basement with a 5 year supply of food for 2, will that be enough?”

“Don’t forget the toilet paper.”

“You can only have that 10 grand to buy everything you want.”

“Does that include an extra freezer, the tables and chairs and stuff we need to finish the shelter?”

“I’ll meet you halfway on those things, ok?”

◦

What choice did I have? I had to buy the firearms and ammo I wanted, communications equipment and that was all on me. Sharon was insistent she’d only pay half the price of the extra appliances and furniture. I was already settling for things I didn’t like, like dial-up internet. But, like Ron always said, oh well.

The entrance to the shelter ramp was a slab of chain driven road plate mounted in a carrier assembly. We could do that because we were never without power for more than a few seconds, thanks to the Kohler backup generator. I had it set up to exercise itself weekly so we wouldn’t have a problem if the REA had a problem.

I figured to save buying the firearms for last, communications equipment was the top of my list. I like Kenwood, go figure. I liked the TS-2000, and the MFJ vertical 10 band antenna. I needed to add a few extras to finish out the ham shack, like a SSB CB base station. All in all, I got by for about \$3,500. My share of the washer, dryer and freezer came to about \$800, leaving me \$5,700 to spend on tables, chairs, guns and ammo.

I had a DVD player that we could put in the shelter. Sharon had one of those combo VHS/DVD rigs on the main TV. I pointed out that since we only watched DVDs on the TV, we swap, better to have the combo player in the shelter with our 400+ VHS movies. She went along with that one, thank God. It took us until spring to buy and store the food and finish off stocking the shelter. We were in time for tornado season.

Meanwhile, Congress was embroiled in a cat fight, the Dems wanted to bring the troops home and the Reps wanted a phased withdrawal. George had been slowly relinquishing his positions and we were no better off for it. If we were going to pull the troops out, we should try and do it in one fell swoop, retreat to Kuwait and get the heck out. I couldn’t figure out why the President couldn’t read the handwriting on the wall. It wouldn’t take long, the Dems would block his funding and he wouldn’t have a choice.

I don’t think anyone was surprised when he addressed the nation and said our job was done. Except, perhaps, for the Iraqis. That ding bat in charge of Iran declared a victory for the insurgency; he had no idea how mad the President was. NATO took over the fight in Afghanistan and Britain left Iraq before we did. A person could almost hear the clocking ticking, Hezbollah was making small incursions into Israel. Iran was threatening Israel over their nuclear program because Israel was threatening to do to it what they’d done to the Iraqi program.

Silent Running – Chapter 3

A word to my critics, the story is extra – this is all about education. If you find it too wordy and rambling, don't read it. It contains elements of controversy, satire and anything else my senile mind can come up with.

*color me your color, baby
color me your car
color me your color, darling
I know who you are
Come up off your color chart
I know where you're comin' from*

*Call me (call me) on the line
Call me, call me any, anytime
Call me (call me) my love
You can call me any day or night
Call me*

*Cover me with kisses, baby
Cover me with love
Roll me in designer sheets
I'll never get enough
Emotions come, I don't know why
Cover up love's alibi*

*Call me (call me) on the line
Call me, call me any, anytime
Call me (call me) oh love
When you're ready we can share the wine
Call me*

*Ooo-oo-oo-oo-oo, he speaks the languages of love
Ooo-oo-oo-oo-oo, amore, chiamami, chiamami
Ooo-oo-oo-oo-oo, appelle-moi mon cheri, appelle-moi
Anytime, anyplace, anywhere, any way
Anytime, anyplace, anywhere, any day-ay*

*Call me (call me) my love
Call me, call me any, anytime
Call me (call me) for a ride
Call me, call me for some overtime
Call me (call me) my love
Call me, call me in a sweet design
Call me (call me), call me for your lover's lover's alibi
Call me (call me) on the line*

Call me, call me any, anytime
Call me (call me)
Oh, call me, oo-hoo-hah
Call me (call me) my love
Call me, call me any, anytime

o

Worse, there was another shooting in a school and the media was blaming the guns, not the shooter. I've got to get one of those guns, they have legs and can pull their own triggers. I'd forgiven Geraldo; my new favorite person was Wolf Blitzer, a graduate of the Communist school of Journalism. We didn't need enemies, we had Wolf.

What does Deborah Harry have to do with anything? Darned if I know, I just like the song. But then, I also liked Culture Club's *Karma Chameleon*. On August 14, 2006, Boy George reported for garbage duty, picking up trash for the New York City Department of Sanitation as part of his community service. As a result of the media frenzy, he was allowed to perform his community service inside the Sanitation Department grounds. Strange, very strange. Personally, I didn't care for his shade of lipstick and thought he belonged in Kalifornia. I failed to get off on the music of the Grateful Dead, unlike Mark Harmon (*The Presidio*).

You remember the Alfred E. Newman drawing that said, "What, me worry?" I was very worried and despite the election, Cheney said that Hillary was a threat in 2008. This fellow from Illinois Barack Obama, was being touted by some as a Presidential candidate. His father was from Kenya and his mother was an American from Hawaii. Sooner or later, we have a minority President and if he ran, I'd have to think long and hard to vote against him. For me, it really depended on who the Republicans ran in '08. If McCain was the candidate, I'd vote for him, otherwise...

You just knew that in '08, the Dems would get back the House and Senate. It might be close and we'd have another 2 years of a do nothing Congress, but it seemed inevitable. If you think about it, no matter which party the President belonged to, that party took heat from the media. I didn't want Bill Clinton to have a 3rd and 4th term. There were issues dividing the country including the right to choose and stem cell research. The Christian Right was trying to force everyone to accept their views while the Liberal Left was doing the same and no matter which side won, it would only divide the country.

You could take it to the bank; on January 21, 2009 our troops would be coming home. Derek was back, but we still had 140,000+ in the line of fire. I kept thinking about what Gen. Casey had said, we'd be living under martial law in the event terrorists used a WMD on America. Even if they detonated a nuclear weapon in Dallas, Sharon and I were protected. I wasn't as worried about the weapon as I was the aftermath. I watched every penny from that point on, Sharon said 10 grand and Sharon meant 10 grand. That meant doing many of the things I'd normally hired done, by myself.

For a radio mast, I dug a hole, poured some sackrete and put in a plumbing fixture I could screw a pipe in. For a mast, I used 3 10' sections of 1½" pipe and guyed the mast once it was in place. Instead of RG-213, I used RG-8 and bought a Galaxy DX 2547 AM/SSB CB base station. Our mobile CB was a Cobra 148 GTL AM/SSB. I watched the prices on everything and finally had my armory built, except for the .50 caliber. I'd recently learned of the McMillan Tac-50 and changed my plans from the M82 to the Tac-50.

The Army had screwed up Derek's reenlistment bonus and instead of getting it while he was in Iraq, he had to fight them and got it when he got home. I told him he had more money than I did, he could buy his own rifle.

It was cheaper to drive to a gun dealer and pickup ammo than to order it, Texas had plenty of surplus places. The price kept creeping up partly due to the value of brass and partly to the shortage of surplus. I didn't want to use commercial ammo because of the sensitive primers. The supply of South African surplus had dried up and about all a person could get was Lake City overruns. The problem with that was that the cases often contained mixed lots and you never knew for sure what you were getting.

I persisted and eventually had the weapons I wanted and the ammo to go with them. The fanciest firearm I had was the first one, the Loaded M1A. Sharon asked me to buy her a 9mm and I told her to buy her own, it wasn't in my budget.

The Independent Working Group has looked at a number of scenarios. One involves al Qaeda, or a similar group, outfitting five "tramp" freighters or possibly container ships with nuclear tipped (15-kiloton, Hiroshima size) Scud-B missiles. The number five was selected because the pattern of mounting "the mother of all" attacks, at least on September 11, involved at minimum five commercial jets, three of which succeeded. Were such a cataclysmic event to be contemplated, it seems reasonable to assume that five vessels likely would be involved, with, say, three deployed off the East Coast (New York, Washington, Norfolk and the Atlantic fleet) and two off the West Coast (Seattle and San Diego and the Pacific fleet). The combined death toll projected by reliable data could be as high as 3,729,000 not counting a like number of injuries, plus extreme damage to infrastructure. While not attempting here to assess the probability, it should be stressed that the capability is realistically available and, thus, deserves to be factored into homeland defense planning. See "Scenarios Involving Various US Cities Attacked by Al Qaeda Terrorists with Sea-launched Scud Nuclear Missiles." The Independent Working Group on Missile Defense.

If you read the full 2007 Report, you would notice that they were very big on the SDI Brilliant Pebbles plan. All of the involved technology had been proven with the launch of Clementine I, which was used to survey the Moon. The authors were quick to point out that Brilliant Pebbles could be fully deployed for \$11B while the current missile defense system had cost \$46B and climbing.

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Day after day I sat at my computer, reading everything I could find on the internet that might be a clue to what would happen next. We did a small garden the summer of 2007 and I talked Sharon into getting the 30-quart canner from Canning Pantry. We had plenty of room in the shelter because I hadn't done much to fix it up. That's not totally true; I put up a wall for a storage room and built his and her bathrooms around the two stools and sinks the plumber had installed. When it came to storing my guns, I took most of the shelves out of my office cabinet and built a rack inside to hold the long guns. I had the M1A, the SR-556, the 590A1 and the model 9422. I also had the PT1911, Sauer .32acp and Sharon coughed up the money for her own Browning Hi-Power.

I tried to walk to and from the shelter, but even with the ramp, I couldn't get back up, my legs were all but gone. I resolved that by leaving my old wheelchair in the house and parking the combat (tactical) wheelchair on the ramp. If I hadn't had the contractor set up the ramp cover to be power driven, I'd have never been able to do more than look at it. The sad part was that I wasn't that old, only 64. I had my computer in the shelter to keep it safe and Sharon kept hers in her activity room. We had a home network and could easily transfer most files between the two machines.

Eventually we got cable TV and we got a new cable router. It had gotten to the point that I couldn't take the frustration any longer and when our chance came, we signed up. I took the TV antenna down and packed it away in case of a rainy day. I was talking about our garden and took a wrong turn. We planted green beans, cucumbers, sweet corn, tomatoes, green pepper and potatoes. The only things we canned were bread and butter pickles, tomato sauce and the green beans. We cut and stripped and froze the green peppers for pepper steak and stored the ½ ton of potatoes in the shelter. We only planted enough corn to have some to eat.

Amy called to tell Sharon that she'd finally gotten the Bachelor's degree. She had a good job working for LA County but was looking at the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Corrections at a Probation Officer position. I wouldn't be opposed to her moving to Dallas, Texas had Probation Officers too. What I didn't want and wouldn't permit was her moving in with us again. With 3 kids along, I figured it would take Lorrie and her about a day and a half to get here, it was ~1,440 miles.

Although Paris was off the beaten path, Derek and Mary were ~ 400 miles away. Damon, by contrast, could get on I-35 and take it all the way to the US 82 exit. I know I could make it from Britt to Paris in a single day, if I still drove, and hoped Damon could too. When I talked to him on the phone, he claimed he could beat the MSN maps quickest time by at least an hour. It was ~760 miles from Britt to Paris, 11-12 hours.

Circling the wagons? No, but there's nothing wrong with planning ahead. If some of those towelheads actually did attack the US again, this time with a WMD, it would depend on what happened whether or not that would be necessary. For more than a year,

that statement by Gen Casey had burned my gut. It required Prevacid to keep from getting ulcers and Pepcid AC, to put down the burn I still got.

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“How about I go with you to Wal-Mart?”

“Why you want to leave the house? What do you want at Wal-Mart?”

“I just want to look around.”

“I hope they have a scooter available.”

“If they don’t, I have dibs on the cart.”

Paris had a Wal-Mart Super store. There was a Sam’s Club in Sherman and several in Dallas. We could also order online, but the shipping ate up the savings.

“Would you rather go to Sam’s Club?”

“Yes, where do you want to go?”

“Sherman is only about an hour’s drive. Let’s take the trailer and we’ll stock up.”

“I spent 20 years trying to get you onboard and when you did, it was Katie bar the door, here come the Indians. Do you have a shopping list?”

“Gary, I always have a shopping list, I write stuff down as we take it out of our stocks. That’s what I get for being around you for 35 years. You do the same thing; you go to the range and shoot up one battle pack of ammo then turn around and order a case to replace what you used.”

“Well... I couldn’t buy all the ammo I thought we should have and used that as an excuse to increase our supply.”

“I think you probably have enough to last through World War Seven.”

“I’d be happy just to survive World War Three.”

Never turn me loose in a Sam’s Club when we have a trailer behind the SUV and a fat checkbook. We spent more time in the store and loading our purchases than we did driving to and from. I was grabbing case lots of the things we used and sometimes, 50 or 100 pound bags of stuff I thought would keep. It wasn’t like I went to the Sam’s Club every day. We didn’t buy anything that needed to be quickly unloaded and put away. That way, I got stuck with dragging most of the stuff to the shelter. I had a 4 wheel cart and the same Warn Winch I had on the ramp in my previous stories, actually, that’s

where I got the idea. I could load up the cart, take a smoke break, lower the cart, take a smoke break, haul the cart into the shelter, take a smoke break and unload the cart. By then, I was too tired to light another cigarette.

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I had it figured that it would take until fall to top off the propane tank and into 2008 before the diesel was full. Once we had 1,000 gallons of diesel, Sharon concentrated on filling that 1,100 gallon propane tank. After, all the money went into loads of fuel to fill the diesel tank for the generator. While I won't claim we had tons of money, not having a house payment, car payment and God only knows what other payments left Sharon with a lot of money to concentrate on what was really important.

I had purchased 15 gallons of PRI-D. She was buying about 1,000 gallons of diesel a month. Since it could get cold, I also added a load #1 Diesel (kerosene). One gallon of that stuff would treat 3,800 gallons of fuel. The farm tank Sharon had installed for the SUV held 500 gallons and was treated with PRI-G.

I had HEET too, just in case there was water in the gas tank and/or a gas line froze. HEET is basically methyl alcohol with a few additives. The manufacture recommends using HEET or Iso-HEET year round in hot humid climates. The latter product can be used in all gasoline engines. Let me give you an idea about some of the other things I'd managed to accumulate.

I had a chain saw, axe, splitting maul, splitting wedges and a big sledge hammer. However, we bought firewood for the 3 fireplaces in the home. In the shelter on the shelf or in the metal storage cabinet were spare every things for the SUV. Spare computer, spare wires, spare bulbs, fuses and anything you could think of but spare tires. It might have been cheaper to buy a spare vehicle.

We had a water pump that attached to the water tank and allowed us to use a 1½" fire hose. Water tank? Sorry, I forgot to tell you about the tank. I heard a dairyman was selling a 5,000 gallon stainless steel tank because his herd had grown and he wanted a larger tank. That set me to thinking about cows. Assuming you got an average of 20 gallons of milk per cow per day, he had a pretty big herd, somewhere between 200 and 250. I called the number in the paper and the tank was still available. I checked on the web and got an average price then called him and made him an offer. I must have been high, he took it.

When I was in the Air Force, most of the work we did used stainless steel for pipes because of the corrosive chemicals we used. I figured you couldn't wear a tank like that out and when he accepted \$2,500, I jumped on it. When they pulled his old tank to put in the new tank, I hired a local to deliver it. Next, I rented one of those jet washers and did my best to wash out any remaining milk. Finally, we got the plumber and excavator back and buried the tank between the well and the house. The plumber connected it in line with the pipe from the well, giving us stored water. We attached 2 pumps, the one

for the drinking/house/shelter water and a second for the pump for the fire hose. I bought one of those folded hoses you sometimes see in office buildings and it was connected to the pipe coming up from the fire pump. The plumber tested it when he was finished and all that was required to put out a small fire was to pull out the hose and flip the switch to the pump. The pump was rated at 750 gallons a minute and the plumber said we'd have about 7 minutes of water at that flow rate.

That wasn't much water but Sharon and I agreed that if we could catch a fire early, we might keep it down until the Fire Department arrived. The well pump would take several hours to refill the tank so the tank represented all of our available water. As a kid in Iowa, I'd seen a few barns burn and it was never pretty. My Uncle Pete's barn burned and he lost his whole herd of dairy cows and a loft full of hay. They said the hay had been a little green and had started the fire through spontaneous combustion.

o

There were just the four of us, Sharon, me, Missy and Sassy. Missy got a cataract in her left eye and was blind on that side, a side effect of her diabetes. We had both of the pets on Senior Diet Eukanuba. Actually, Missy preferred cat food, but the vet said it wasn't good for her. The vet wanted \$2,500 to remove her cataracts and replace her lenses. We told him we'd think about it.

With Derek and Mary so close, they came down about once a quarter and half of the holidays. I liked that because we could go shooting and I could get a bit of my edge back. I don't see that well by then and my M1A felt liked it had gained weight, but we took all the guns out and ran a couple of boxes through each. Derek said I shouldn't try to join any shooting teams but I was good enough to keep their heads down until the Sheriff could show up. Right, if we needed the Sheriff, we'd probably be dead before they dispatched a car.

We didn't have many buildings because it was only 0.95 acre, the house, the well house and a pole shed that doubled as a garage, workshop and storage. We did desert landscaping so we wouldn't have to worry about mowing a lawn. We didn't have a lot of spare space, not with 41,412 ft² (203x204). Each time they came down, Derek helped me and we'd put in another row of fence. It wasn't much, steel posts with treated wood corner posts and 4 strands of barbed wire, but it did define the property lines. The front gate was one of the standard gates intended to keep livestock in but almost nothing out. I'd have preferred pig wire on the bottom to keep Missy in but found that chicken wire was far cheaper and just as effective.

Sharon had taken to flying to Iowa during October to visit Shirley. She'd take a bus to the DFW airport and fly up to Des Moines and on the return trip do the reverse. I'd stay home and give Missy her meds and let Sassy in and out to roam whenever he wanted. We had a fair number of Salisbury Steaks (Hearty One by Banquet) and a few boxes of macaroni and cheese. Aside from keeping Missy and my meds sorted out it was a relaxing, quiet time.

When we moved, I hadn't bothered to register to vote, I was so sick of politics and politicians, they could elect any liar they wanted. That went way back to the Founding Fathers, we had the First Party System from 1792 through 1824, the Second Party System from 1824 to 1854, the Third Party System from 1854 until the mid-1890s, the Fourth Party System from then until 1932. After that, I have no idea; I'm not a Political Scientist. Whatever we have, it's sure screwed up now.

The Bush Doctrine is a set of foreign policy guidelines first unveiled by President George W. Bush in his commencement speech to the graduating class of West Point given on 01Jun02. The policies, taken together, outlined a broad new phase in US policy that would place greater emphasis on military pre-emption, military superiority "strength beyond challenge", unilateral action, and a commitment to "extending democracy, liberty, and security to all regions". The policy was formalized in a document titled 'The National Security Strategy of the United States of America', published on 20Sep02. The Bush Doctrine is a marked departure from the policies of deterrence and containment that generally characterized American foreign policy during the Cold War and the decade between the collapse of the Soviet Union and 9/11. Bush summed up this policy with the words, "Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists."

'The One Percent Doctrine' was the title of a book written by Ron Suskind. The source of the title was something Cheney said: If there's a 1% chance that Pakistani scientists are helping al-Qaeda build or develop a nuclear weapon, we have to treat it as a certainty in terms of our response. It's not about our analysis ... It's about our response.

A superpower is a state with the first rank in the international system and the ability to influence events and project power on a worldwide scale; it is considered a higher level of power than a Great power. It was a term first applied in 1943 to the Soviet Union, the United States, and the British Empire. Following WW II, the British Empire was gradually decentralized and dismantled and the Soviet Union and the United States were regarded as the only two superpowers, and then engaged in the Cold War.

Currently, the most common belief among mainstream journalists and in the world of academia holds that only the United States fulfills the criteria to be considered a superpower. Sometimes, given the unipolar nature of the world, it is described as a hyperpower.

Throughout history, there have been Superpowers, Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome. The first Global power was Spain and they were eventually replaced by the British Empire. After WW I, the US emerged as one of the top 4 and after WW II, the only 2 real Superpowers were the US and the Soviet Union. The British Empire had been reduced in status to a Great power. There are 2 emerging Superpowers, China and India.

o

We are now living in a world where, if there is a 1% chance of terrorists getting the bomb, we will launch a preemptive strike. Frankly, I preferred the Cold War, at least then we knew where we stood. The Cold War never ended, it just changed character. When I wrote that back in 2005, most probably thought I was full of it. Brother, read the paper and then tell me I'm wrong. I'll quote myself:

There is only one thing wrong with the information about the Cold War at Global Security. The Cold War never ended; it simply went underground for a few years. That was never more apparent than in the year 2005. During early 2005, the Russians held joint maneuvers with the Chinese. Later in 2005, the Russian supplied missiles to Syria and nuclear technology to Iran. That's fact, not speculation.

Speculation involved whether or not the Russians were missing any nuclear material. Vladimir Putin told Ariel Sharon that he stopped the sale of missiles to Syria that could reach Israel because Israel didn't have a system that could stop the long-range missiles Syria really wanted to buy.

Between when I wrote that and now we had the 34-Day war between Hezbollah and Israel. Putin claimed the only way anyone would come in contact with Syria's missiles was if they attacked Syria. What can I say, times change? However, Russia is still selling missiles to Iran and Syria buys them third hand. They, in turn, provide them to Hezbollah. And what's this stuff about al-Qaeda in Gaza? Perhaps you can understand why, in the spring of 2006 just before we planted the garden, I was concerned beyond any level I can describe, terrified comes to mind.

o

"I think we should plant extra potatoes this year."

"Why Gary, we have some left over from last year?"

"No we don't, I gave those to Derek. I just kept back enough to get eyes to plant. There should be enough eyes to grow a couple of tons."

"Why would you want 2 tons of potatoes?"

"Sharon, it's by no means certain, but I expect a party swap with the Democrats taking power. I never thought I'd live to see the day, but Hillary might end up President, giving Bill another 4 year term."

"What about that guy from Illinois?"

"Obama? I don't know. Is the country ready for a Black President? Maybe if Hillary takes the Convention, she'll pick him as her running mate. I'd rather have him in charge than either Hillary or Bill."

“That’s not going to happen unless she dies in office.”

“We can always hope, huh? I saw him on TV, an interview on Fox. He’s well-spoken and in some ways reminded me a little of Powell. We’d have been much better off if Powell’s wife hadn’t made him pull out of the run for the Presidency.”

“You’re going to stock up more, aren’t you?”

“If we can, yes. There is probably enough room in the shelter for one more trailer load of food and supplies. If it looks like things are going Hell, we’ll call the kids and circle the wagons.”

“What was it you had the mechanic do to the SUV?”

“Oh that. I had him modify it to run on E-85. He replaced the gas tank and fuel lines. I don’t know what he did to the engine, probably changed the computer chip, oxygen sensor and injectors. Anyway, he said it would run on anything from unleaded to E-85. The vehicles are basically the same, right down to the sticker price. There’s only one major additional part – a fuel sensor that detects the ethanol/gasoline ratio. Otherwise, flexible fuel vehicles have slightly modified fuel tanks, fuel lines, fuel injectors, computer systems, anti-siphon devices and dashboard gauges to be ethanol-compatible. He told me to bring in the spare computer and he’d switch it over.”

“Why would you want to convert the car?”

“500 gallons of gasoline will produce about 3,333 gallons of E-85, that’s why. You can make alcohol out of many things, corn is just the easiest. If TSHTF, we can always make some anhydrous alcohol and mix it with the gas.”

“Can you run E-85 in that chainsaw?”

“Nope. I figured we’d save back enough gas to run the chainsaw.”

“Have you ever used a chainsaw?”

“Nope and I don’t plan on learning how. I figured that Derek would be the one to learn to use it, assuming it came to that, I can barely pick up my M1A.”

“If that’s the case, why did you buy it?”

“Because I wanted one?”

“Tell the truth, Gary, you bought it to give to Derek when you die.”

“Yeah, that too.”

“You get feebler every day, Gary.”

Silent Running – Chapter 4

*Sweet dreams are made of this
Who am I to disagree?
I travel the world
And the seven seas–
Everybody's looking for something*

*Some of them want to use you
Some of them want to get used by you
Some of them want to abuse you
Some of them want to be abused*

*Sweet dreams are made of this
Who am I to disagree?
I travel the world
And the seven seas–
Everybody's looking for something*

*Hold your head up–Keep your head up–Movin' on
Hold your head up –movin' on
Keep your head up –movin' on
Hold your head up –movin' on
Keep your head up –movin' on
Hold your head up –movin' on
Keep your head up*

*Sweet dreams are made of this
Who am I to disagree?
I travel the world
And the seven seas–
Everybody's looking for something*

Eurythmics (often incorrectly referred to as “The Eurythmics”) are a British musical duo, formed in 1980 by Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart.

o

“Don't worry about it dear, I read on the internet that if you make it to 65, your life expectancy increases to 84.”

“I hope not.”

Obama had decided to run and appeared to be stealing votes from Hillary. The leading Republican candidate was John McCain. He had some rather interesting support, Colin Powell for one. I knew how I was going to vote and Sharon said she'd never vote for Hil-

lary. I liked McCain because when compared to Bush, he was a liberal. He wasn't though, just something we hadn't seen in a while, a moderate Republican. For too many years, the Republican Party had been sucking up to the fundamentalist Christians and supporting their agenda. I don't have anything against fundamentalist Christians; however they do have their own agenda. I sometimes think they believe that life begins before you get your clothes off. The first court case that defined when life began was *State v. Chavez*, a California case where a woman let a full term baby die because she couldn't be bothered to tie the umbilical cord with a shoestring.

Sharon and I believe that abortion should always be permitted in the case of rape or incest. We don't believe that it should be used for selecting the sex of your child or as an alternate to birth control. Any boy or girl old enough to engage in sex probably knows the possible consequences. Those babies can be born and put up for adoption. We would also make an exception if the life of the mother is endangered. Odds are they can have another baby and if they already have children to do otherwise would leave the children without a mother. We're both well past child rearing age and both took steps amounting to permanent birth control. It's a free country and we're entitled to our opinions.

o

"Hi Dad, it will be Christmas this year, we're spending Thanksgiving with Mary's folks."

"Sure, we can have a ham, turkey or prime rib, what would you prefer?"

"Real Prime Rib?"

"Is there any other kind?"

"Sounds good."

"I figured you'd say that; anyway it will make Sharon happy. Bring your guns and we'll try and get in some shooting. Did you decide who you're going to vote for?"

"McCain. If it were Obama with Hillary as VP, I might vote for Obama, but I won't put her in office for another 8 years."

"When y'all come down, we need to talk."

"Oh, something up?"

"If she wins, I think this country is in for very big trouble. We need to sit down and have a long talk to prepare for any untoward developments. I'm going to invited Damon down too; he should be in on this. If Lorrie and Amy can get away, it might be a good time to have an old fashioned family Christmas with all of you kids."

“Do you have room for all of us?”

“We do now; Sharon made me subdivide the shelter into 6 small bedrooms, the kitchen and a great room. It’s nothing fancy, but you’ll have some privacy and the sixth room is fitted with 10 bunk beds, enough for all of the grandchildren.”

o

“Sharon, would you try to reach Lorrie and Amy and invite them for Christmas? They can stay in the shelter and we can provide gas money.”

“Fine, what do you want for Christmas dinner?”

“I offered Derek prime rib, turkey and ham. He said prime rib and I thought you’d like that.”

“I’ll have to get a big one from the butcher.”

“Is it ok? Getting the kids together?”

“Unless you have some nefarious reason for it. Why, are you expecting trouble?”

“I’m always expecting trouble, it’s not a question of if, just what and when.”

“Any guess on what?”

“We have new passports with chips and the state drivers’ licenses have to conform to federal standards. The government is getting too big for its britches. These past 8 years under George W. Bush have made the government intrusion very evident. The sad thing was he could get away with it under the name of national security and border protection.”

“But he’s leaving office.”

“Right, but what if Hillary wins? George has the power structure in place for her to impose gun controls, and only God knows what else.”

“She can’t do that.”

“She can do it, believe me. The only question is whether or not she can get away with it. The world has big problems, food production is way down and the population just keeps growing. We never managed to settle the question of North Korea and Iran’s nuclear programs. At the moment, there appear to be 10 countries with the bomb. We don’t know if the Japanese are developing one or not, although they deny it. It’s against the Constitution MacArthur shoved down their throat. Much of it was drafted by two senior US Army officers with law degrees: Milo Rowell and Courtney Whitney.”

“Were you talking about Hillary or nuclear weapons?”

“Yes.”

“So, who are you voting for?”

“McCain.”

“Yeah, me too. I wonder who the kids will vote for.”

“Derek and Damon will vote for McCain. I don’t know about Lorrie, but Amy will vote for Hillary.”

“How do you know?”

“I asked her one night in the fall of 2006 when we were sitting in the office.”

“I’ll call Lorrie and tell her to vote for John McCain and cancel out Amy’s vote.”

“It won’t make any difference, California always votes for a Democrat, or at least it seems like it.”

o

“CBS is giving the election to Hilary and Fox is saying not to count McCain out yet.”

“How many states are left to count?”

“Only Ohio. Apparently whoever wins Ohio wins the election.”

“Have we seen this movie before?”

“Must have been 2004, in 2000, it was all about Florida. Bush carried Ohio in 2004.”

“Who carried Ohio in 1992 and 1996?”

“Clinton. That’s why it’s so hard to tell. I guess we’ll have to wait until Ohio finishes counting their votes. The last time we had a moderate Republican President was Gerald Ford. Unless the Democrats get 60 Senate seats, they will be a lame duck Senate for 2 more years.”

“Gary, there’s a lot of anger over Iraq and Bush thumbing his nose at the UN didn’t win him any friends.”

“The UN doesn’t mean a thing. They failed to impose reasonable sanctions on Iran and North Korea tested 2 more nukes, that last one was a fusion weapon. When Great Britain pulled out of Iraq, it became more of a lost cause. Besides, we lost our UN mandate to be in Iraq and didn’t have much choice.”

o

We got tired of waiting for some indication of how Ohio would go and went the bed. Late the next morning, the Ohio results were announced and John McCain conceded. Believe you me, if Ohio had gone the other way, the Supreme Court would have ended up deciding another election, but McCain was gentleman. I said screw it and got on the phone and ordered 2,000 rounds each of 7.62 and 5.56 plus 1,000 rounds each of .45ACP and 9mm from a Texas dealer. He said it would only take two days for delivery.

I now wanted a Tac-50, but we didn’t have 9 grand for the rifle and scope and 2 grand for ammo. I had used A.R.M.S. mounts to put the scope on the Super Match. By now, I had 40 of the 20 round T-57 magazines and the set with the tape on them contained Black Hill 175gr Match ammo.

None of our guns except for the Nazi .32 and that Sterling .22 had been acquired without filling out the 4473s. If the new Administration wanted to implement a gun grab, it would be easy, provided they could find them in the first place. One of the things I intended to talk to Derek about was how to conceal the shelter entrance. I didn’t really know how we could conceal the sliding panel entrance to the ramp. Because I’d made it to 65, I could live another 20 years if I watched my health and took my meds.

Speaking of meds, both Sharon and I had, over the past couple of years, managed to build up a one year reserve supply using the lost prescription dodge. She had decided to take her Social Security at age 62, which meant she became eligible in 2009. I had to wait for 2 years before Medicare kicked in because I was on disability; I hoped that didn’t apply to people who retired. Not knowing what happened to the avian flu threat, we also bought 25 cards of Tamiflu. Our little medical clinic in the shelter was fairly well equipped; the only thing we really lacked was a doctor and nurse. We could handle up to 4 people based on the number of beds and more based on the medicines. We had settled on Act-Cel to stop blood loss; QuikClot worked but presented problems when the doctor or medic tried to treat the wound.

Sharon baked a chicken for Thanksgiving and instead of watching football on the TV, I spent the day in the shelter, rearranging, taping drywall seams and just getting ready for Christmas. We’d been around getting used furniture for the bedrooms, mostly beds and chests of drawers. We’d bought pre-hung doors and still had to have a carpenter install them, I couldn’t get it right. I planned to sand the seams on Black Friday and begin to slap on a coat of Navajo White. Hell, I’d even insulated the walls to keep the sound down. I had to; I wasn’t going to carpet the floors. I had it all done by Sunday night, November 30th. I’d need to take the following week to recover. It had been sort of easy; I used latex paint on everything, including the doors.

“What’s left to do?”

“Clean up, but that shouldn’t take long, I put down plastic and we can pull that up and put the latches on the doors.”

“You forgot the furniture, Gary. We still have to move that into the bedrooms and set up the beds.”

“Give me a few days to recover and I take care of that. You can help me move the box springs and the mattresses. Did you buy some sheets and pillow cases?”

“You forgot mattress pads. Yes, I got it but it isn’t the top of the line stuff.”

“If you’ll wash it to get the sizing out, I’ll help you make the beds once we get it all set up.”

o

Clinton and Obama were busy deciding on a cabinet but I didn’t pay much attention. To tell the truth, I was re-reading Pax Americana and the Battle of Jakes. They were tales of American insurgencies, forced on the people by a repressive government who thought it knew what the people needed better than the people themselves. It was, IMNSHO, just a matter of time before the Wicked Witch of the East pushed legislation through Congress to require registration of all firearms and the seizure of anything remotely resembling a military firearm.

I knew they’d come looking for me, I was a Patron member of the NRA and had purchased several firearms. Not wanting to look like we had anything to hide, we hadn’t built castle walls around our 0.95 acres. The only firearm we kept in the house was the little Sterling .22, let them take that. If Derek, Damon and I could figure out how to conceal the entrance to the shelter, they’d never find the guns.

The idea I had to resist the feds came from the song that serves as the title to this piece, Silent Running. We could fake it because we did all those stupid things they required, getting federally compliant state driver’s license or ID card, biometric passports and so forth. I planned to draw the line if they insisted on inserting biometric chips in our arms. The technology already existed, it was used to identify pets and wouldn’t take much to adapt to human beings.

When I’d written about it before, I’d used a lame brained scheme of switching chips. Not this time, if we got the chips, they’d come out the same day and maybe be held in place with a piece of tape for times when we had no other choice. The government could enforce a chip law easily, requiring you to have a chip to buy food and drugs. They might go so far as denying you medical care unless you had the implant.

I concluded that those steel road plates would be a dead giveaway if the feds brought in ground penetrating radar. I further concluded that for no more firearms than I had, they wouldn't bother. Hence, I stacked the firewood against the house over the ramp. After a day of that, my back hurt so bad I called Damon and told him his father needed help. He wanted to know with what and I told him moving firewood to conceal the ramp. I told him I'd cover his gas and come up with something he wanted in exchange for the work. I had in mind a 590A1.

He showed up the next day, must have driven straight through, and we ran out of firewood before we had the ramp completely covered. Sharon ordered 5 cords of firewood and Damon I went shopping. He wanted a Remington 870 Express combo, the one with the 28" vent rib barrel and the 20" improved cylinder choke barrel with rifle sights. It wasn't as inexpensive as I thought it would be, but he was happy. At least he bought the magazine extension, giving him 8 rounds in the magazine and one up the pipe. He would have to get the magazine modified to use the extension, they added dimples or something.

The other thing it allowed us to do was rotate some of the food in the freezer, that boy can eat. When we were done with the firewood, we had 28 cords going completely around the house. One cord was stacked on a frame covered with plywood and had wheels allowing it to be move to access the ramp. He left and said he'd be back with the kids' right before Christmas.

o

By the 23rd of December we had a full house and/or shelter. It proved to be easier have the sit down meals in the shelter, it had more space and the folding tables. It wasn't tornado or hurricane season and as far as I knew, Long Valley and Yellowstone weren't acting up. Mt. St. Helen's was but we were a long way from there. On the day after Christmas, I managed to get Damon, Derek and Amy to sit down with me to discuss what I feared was coming.

"Happy Amy?"

"About what?"

"Hillary winning the election."

"As a matter of fact, I am. She'll get the country straightened out."

"If by straighten out you mean a National Health Plan, the registration and eventual seizure of all firearms, you're right. Our free market economy is about to become a thing of the past. I think one of her first steps will be to implant biometric data chips in every American."

"Bull."

“Amy, no democracy survives forever,” Derek explained. “We’ve had a good run but it’s about to end in its present form. Our present form is a Constitutional Representative Republic, the oldest in the world. We have the most powerful military in the world and at the moment are the only real superpower. Dad and I agree that’s about to change. As it is, we’re pretty close to the end with the uniform state identity cards and biometric Passports.”

“Amy, you may not recall, but one of Bill Clinton’s first moves as President was to put Hillary in charge of coming up with a National Health Plan. In 1993 the President appointed his wife to head the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. The recommendation of this task force, commonly called the Clinton healthcare plan nicknamed “Hillarycare” by its opponents, failed to gain enough support to come to a floor vote in either house of Congress, although both had Democratic majorities, and was abandoned in September, 1994. That will resurface and be the basis for the biometric chips, no one needs do anything but show up for healthcare and they’ll read your chip.”

“Meanwhile, Amy, she’ll put full out gun registration through Congress and everyone will be forced to register their guns. In every totalitarian society, like Nazi Germany, registration was always followed by seizure.”

“Amy, the problem isn’t the guns per se; it’s the criminals who use them. It’s sort of like I write in my fiction stories, not a question of if, only a question of when and what.”

“Bull.”

That’s where the discussion ended; Amy had her mind made up and didn’t want to be confused by the facts, as we saw them. She left and the boys and I began to make plans for what we’d do when the government threw a handful of stuff into the fan. We agreed to circle the wagons here in Paris because Sharon and I had the only shelter. My program of buying a case of ammo every time I went shooting had a big dividend; we could fight a couple of wars, should it come to that.

o

*There’s a gun and ammunition
Just inside the doorway
Use it only in emergency
Better you should pray to God
The Father and the Spirit
Will guide you and protect from up here*

The kids all had to leave and get back home for work. They left before New Year’s. Damon had his shotgun but no ammo, so I gave him a case each of slugs and 00 Buck. Don’t ask me how she managed it, I really don’t know, but guess what Sharon bought me for Christmas? Does the term Tac-50 ring a bell? It came complete with scope and

mount but no ammo or extra magazines beyond the two included with the purchase. Derek said he'd see what he could do about some Raufoss, but that I shouldn't hold my breath. I ordered some Hornady 750gr A-MAX match ammo and 8 more mags. We were in the poorhouse for a few weeks after that.

Hillary became the next President on January 20th and George headed for Paraguay. According to media statements, it was just to check out the family's new 100,000 acre ranch. In her Inaugural Address Hillary touched on National Health Care, Wars on Terror and Social Security. She didn't utter one word about firearms, but there were a few statements on Crime Control. MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN.

She waited until the Senate had confirmed her cabinet before she introduced legislation for Hillarycare. It was basically the same plan the Congress had rejected years before but this time it met with some degree of approval. She didn't wait for Congress to approve Hillarycare; she went for the throat and introduced gun registration. I had long since sold all of my guns at a gun show, something that would soon cease to exist. To further the illusion, we bought compound bows and literally dozens of arrows, mostly razor heads.

It wasn't a very good illusion; I couldn't even draw the bow I got. So, I went back and got a standard fiberglass recurved bow with about a 35lb draw weight. I proved to be nearly worthless with a bow no matter how hard I tried, so I went with a crossbow. It had a cocking lever so you didn't need to be strong to cock it. With this I actually got to the point where I could hit a man sized silhouette out to about 30 yards.

If there was one saving point on the weapons in the shelter, it was the suppressors. I bought the Jet suppressor for the Tac-50. What's more, I knew that buying suppressors would be like waiving a red flag that said, "Look at me, I have suppressed firearms!" Don't ask... I had to get money from the Trust fund to pay for it.

Most people don't understand about suppressors, they think since you're shooting supersonic bullets, you can't eliminate the noise. As far as it goes, that part is true, as the bullet passes objects, the supersonic shockwave gives off a crack. That isn't why a sound suppressor is so important! It's important because it completely hides the flash. If it just happens to be whisper quiet on a .50 caliber rifle, that's a bonus. The rule of thumb is that it takes at least 2 shots to determine the direction the shot came from. A suppressor can also be built so it doesn't interfere with the functioning of semi-auto firearms by using a Nielsen device.

Crossbow arrows are called bolts. Probably because when the Chinese invented the crossbow, they shot cast iron bolts. My crossbow was a compound unit and similar if not the same as Rambo's. I didn't have any of his explosive warheads; they were probably just a stunt. Derek told me he thought they were just a special effect.

A few days before my 66th birthday, Derek called.

“Did you hear about that bill in Congress?”

“Which bill?”

“The firearms registration bill.”

“Doesn’t bother me, Derek. Of course if I had any guns, it would be very upsetting.”

“But...”

“Oh, I had some, but I sold them all at gun shows. Say, it’s my birthday on the 23rd, why don’t you kids come and we’ll have a birthday party. I’ll call Damon and the girls.”

“That will be a pretty expensive slice of cake.”

“No it won’t, I’ll cover your gas. Can you get time off?”

“It’s not just me; Mary has to get time off too.”

Monday, March 23, 2009...

I had to practically threaten the kids to get them to come to Paris to celebrate my 66th birthday. Hillary had signed the gun registration bill that morning and introduced the amendment to the Hillarycare bill to require biometric chips. I was surprised when the ACLU said they’d oppose the legislation, I thought they only hated Republicans. The ACLU somehow forgot that their mission was to protect and defend the Bill of Rights.

Now they say:

The American system of government is founded on two counterbalancing principles: that the majority of the people govern, through democratically elected representatives; and that the power even of a democratic majority must be limited, to ensure individual rights.

Majority power is limited by the Constitution’s Bill of Rights, which consists of the original ten amendments ratified in 1791, plus the three post-Civil War amendments (the 13th, 14th and 15th) and the 19th Amendment (women’s suffrage), adopted in 1920.

The mission of the ACLU is to preserve all of these protections and guarantees:

- Your First Amendment rights-freedom of speech, association and assembly. Freedom of the press, and freedom of religion supported by the strict separation of church and state.
- Your right to equal protection under the law – equal treatment regardless of race, sex, religion or national origin.

- Your right to due process – fair treatment by the government whenever the loss of your liberty or property is at stake.
- Your right to privacy – freedom from unwarranted government intrusion into your personal and private affairs.

Silent Running – Chapter 5

*Desert loving in your eyes all the way
If I listen to your lies would you say
I'm a man without conviction, I'm a man who doesn't know
How to sell a contradiction, you come and go, you come and go*

CHORUS:

*Karma karma karma karma karma chameleon
You come and go, you come and go
Loving would be easy if your colors were like my dream
Red gold and green, red gold and green*

*Don't hear your wicked words every day
And you used to be so sweet, I heard you say
That my love was an addiction, when we cling our love is strong
When you go you're gone forever, you string along, you string along*

CHORUS

*Every day is like survival
You're my lover, not my rival
Every day is like survival
You're my lover, not my rival
I'm a man without conviction, I'm a man who doesn't know
How to sell a contradiction, you come and go, you come and go*

CHORUS

CHORUS

CHORUS

o

We work also to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including Native Americans and other people of color; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people; women; mental-health patients; prisoners; people with disabilities; and the poor.

You wouldn't find them supporting the rights of Nazi's to parade in Skokie Illinois anymore. In 1977, the ACLU filed suit against the Village of Skokie, seeking an injunction against the enforcement of three town ordinances outlawing Nazi parades and demonstrations. Skokie, Illinois at the time had a majority population of Jews, totaling 40,000 of 70,000 citizens. A federal district court struck down the ordinances in a decision eventually affirmed by the US Supreme Court. The ACLU's action in this case led to a rift between the Jewish Defense League and the ACLU. According to David Hamlin, executive

director of the Illinois ACLU, "...the Chicago office which chose to provide legal counsel to neo-Nazis who have been planning to march in Skokie, has lost about 25% of its membership and nearly one-third of its budget." 30,000 ACLU members resigned in protest.

The ACLU officially declares itself "neutral" on the issue of gun control, pointing to previous Supreme Court decisions such as *United States v. Miller* to argue that the 2nd Amendment applies to the preservation or efficiency of a well-regulated militia, and that "except for lawful police and military purposes, the possession of weapons by individuals is not constitutionally protected."

Clearly they wouldn't be fighting the gun registration law. When NRA attorneys asked for a stay order until the Federal Court could examine the law, the Judge refused to issue a stay order. And so it went all the way to the US Supreme Court, which in fact did issue a stay order. Bush had packed the court and the vote was 5-4 in favor of the order.

I'll bet the ACLU loves Boy George.

The Monroe Doctrine states three major ideas, with one more added by President Theodore Roosevelt. First, it conveys that European countries cannot colonize in any of the Americas: North, Central, or South. Second, it enforces Washington's rule of foreign policy, in which the US will only be involved in European affairs if America's rights are disturbed. Third, the US will consider any attempt at colonization a threat to its national security. Roosevelt added to the doctrine, and summed up his additions with the statement, "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

Hillary was about to thump us over the head with her big stick. At least she would when she wasn't riding it. What was wrong with Medicare part D? It saved me a ton of money, enough that Sharon could buy the Tac-50. I figure Humana wouldn't renew it, but they did, they work on the overall profit not the money they lose on a single patient. Besides, I always took generic drugs if they were available. The only difference was I didn't have a choice now. That was ok; we had a one year supply of all of our drugs. We'd done that when I had expected WW III. We had pulled out of Afghanistan and Iraq, but I think the Islamic fundamentalists were still angry with us. If they used even one WMD in the US, all Americans would suffer.

*Swear allegiance to the flag
Whatever flag they offer
Never hint at what you really feel
Teach the children quietly
For some day sons and daughters
Will rise up and fight while we stood still*

The good old US of A had fallen on hard times by early 2009. The country was a mess and you needed to look no further than the Halloween costumes the adult females were wearing – French Maid outfits, sexy schoolgirl outfits, I could go on. No wonder the Moral Majority was upset, many people's values were in the toilet and when Hillary got elected, she flushed it. I think the Bush family saw the handwriting on the wall and figured they'd be better off far away.

I saw the handwriting on the wall and the birthday party was just an excuse to circle the wagons. We spent 2 days just finding and digging out those biometric chips you had to have to get medical care, etc. It wasn't widespread yet, but as a member of the Army National Guard, Derek and his family had been implanted. Both Lorrie and Amy accepted some amount of state aid out in Kalifornia and they were implanted too. Sharon and I were on Social Security so, you guessed it, we were implanted – for all of 3 hours. Only Damon escaped and I never figured that out. He was on Social Security Disability and 100% military retirement, for bi-polar disorder. He could pretend he didn't remember the appointment, but they'd get him the next time he showed up for a doctor's appointment to renew his prescriptions for his meds.

Thank God I had a 50cc bottle of 2% Lidocaine. It let us dig until we found the ~5mm long capsule that contained the chip. The preferred location was the wrist, which allowed you to waive your hand over the chip reader. The screen then displayed your picture, a full set of fingerprints and what I assumed was DNA data. The person using the reader could push one button and moments later, they knew more about you than your mother. We removed them, put in a stitch to close the wound and used clear tape to tape the tiny capsule to the wrist.

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“Do you have any doubt that the country is in the toilet?”

“I don't see the problem with the chips, Dad, it makes everything so easy.”

“Amy, you can't take a pee without the government knowing about it. Doesn't it bother you just a little bit that the government has taken over your whole life?”

“Why should it?”

“If George W. Bush had made the implants, you'd be screaming to high Heaven, wouldn't you?”

“Well, I guess.”

“Who was President when we got the biometric Passports and the uniform state drivers' licenses? Bush. Hillary picked up where he left off and only made it worse. You haven't heard a single word in the media about the wiretaps and snooping that NSA was doing since the election. Why is that; do you think it stopped?”

“But, Hillary opposed it.”

“She wasn’t President when she said that. Has she announced an end to the program? Have they stopped working on the border fences?”

“I can answer that,” Derek replied. “The Congress voted to close the entire southern border with a 2 layer fence and the northern border when that’s finished.”

“Are they keeping them out or us in?”

“The claim was it was being done to stop illegal immigration and drug trafficking.”

“Fair enough, do you believe that?”

“It hasn’t worked so far, the feds claim the street price of drugs is actually falling.”

“Does anyone in this room doubt that the country is going down the toilet?”

“Dad, I told you Democracies never last.”

“I know you did Derek. Damon, what do you think?”

“I wish I could have brought the kids. What I think I should do is go back to Britt, close up my apartment and move down here.”

“You’ll have to keep it low key. Get a private mailbox in Paris and use that as an address.”

“I already did when we were down here for Christmas.”

“Can you transfer to the Texas National Guard, Derek?”

“I checked, Dad. Detachment 1, 736th Maintenance Company is located in New Boston. That’s just east of here, right?”

“New Boston? That’s about 70 miles east on US 82.”

“I’ll check and see if they have a position for a Staff Sergeant open.”

“What will Mary say about moving?”

“We won’t be that far from her folks, the same distance we are from you now.”

“How does her dad feel about what’s going on?”

“He’s angry. So far he’s refused to get the new Arkansas driver’s license and have the chip implanted. They don’t have Passports.”

“Mark my words; one of these days, the US will adopt Internal Passports. You’ll have to show them and quite possibly travel permits to cross state borders.”

“Bull, Dad, it will never happen.”

“So say you Amy. They’ll register most of the guns and then when the terrorists attack, seize them. By then, most of the population will have those biometric chips implanted. The government will have all the data they need stored in a massive computer system and will begin to issue Internal Passports and travel documents. People like Mary’s Dad who won’t go along with the system will end up in a government reeducation center.”

“You’re speculating.”

“You’re right, I am. Most of the serious changes to this country have occurred since I was born. Not all, of course, but most. In many ways, it began when they came up with the birth control pill. No longer hampered by the risk of pregnancy, women were free to express their sexuality. The guys loved it and that didn’t help. That led to the summer of love in San Francisco. You remember the song?”

*If you’re going to San Francisco
Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair
If you’re going to San Francisco
You’re gonna meet some gentle people there*

*For those who come to San Francisco
Summertime will be a love-in there
In the streets of San Francisco
Gentle people with flowers in their hair*

*All across the nation such a strange vibration
People in motion
There’s a whole generation with a new explanation
People in motion people in motion*

*For those who come to San Francisco
Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair
If you come to San Francisco
Summertime will be a love-in there*

*If you come to San Francisco
Summertime will be a love-in there*

“The lyrics were written by John Phillips of the Mamas and Papas.”

“What were you doing when the song came out?”

“I was attending Iowa State University. That was the fall I meant your brothers’ mother. We got married the following spring. Hillary has Bush to thank for the power she has now.

“Public Law 109-364, or the ‘John Warner Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007’ (HR5122), which was signed by the commander in chief on October 17th, 2006, in a private Oval Office ceremony, allows the President to declare a ‘public emergency’ and station troops anywhere in America and take control of state-based National Guard units without the consent of the governor or local authorities, in order to ‘suppress public disorder.’

“President Bush seized this unprecedented power on the very same day that he signed the equally odious Military Commissions Act of 2006. In a sense, the two laws complement one another. One allows for torture and detention abroad, while the other seeks to enforce acquiescence at home, preparing to order the military onto the streets of America. Remember, the term for putting an area under military law enforcement control is precise; the term is ‘martial law.’

“Section 1076 of the massive Authorization Act, which grants the Pentagon another \$500-plus-billion for its ill-advised adventures, is entitled, ‘Use of the Armed Forces in Major Public Emergencies.’ Section 333, ‘Major public emergencies; interference with State and Federal law’ states that ‘the President may employ the armed forces, including the National Guard in Federal service, to restore public order and enforce the laws of the United States when, as a result of a natural disaster, epidemic, or other serious public health emergency, terrorist attack or incident, or other condition in any State or possession of the United States, the President determines that domestic violence has occurred to such an extent that the constituted authorities of the State or possession are incapable of (“refuse” or “fail” in) maintaining public order, in order to suppress, in any State, any insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combination, or conspiracy.’

“For the President, ‘enforcement of the laws to restore public order’ means to commandeer guardsmen from any state, over the objections of local governmental, military and local police entities; ship them off to another state; conscript them in a law enforcement mode; and set them loose against “disorderly” citizenry – protesters, possibly, or those who object to forced vaccinations and quarantines in the event of a bio-terror event.

“The law also facilitates militarized police round-ups and detention of protesters, so called ‘illegal aliens,’ ‘potential terrorists’ and other ‘undesirables’ for detention in facilities already contracted for and under construction by Halliburton. That’s right. Under the cover of a trumped-up ‘immigration emergency’ and the frenzied militarization of the southern border, detention camps are being constructed right under our noses, camps designed for anyone who resists the foreign and domestic agenda of the administration.

“An article on ‘recent contract awards’ in a recent issue of the slick, insider “Journal of Counterterrorism & Homeland Security International” reported that ‘global engineering and technical services powerhouse KBR [Kellogg, Brown & Root] announced in January 2006 that its Government and Infrastructure division was awarded an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract to support US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities in the event of an emergency.’ ‘With a maximum total value of \$385 million over a five year term,’ the report notes, ‘the contract is to be executed by the US Army Corps of Engineers,’ ‘for establishing temporary detention and processing capabilities to augment existing ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) – in the event of an emergency influx of immigrants into the US, or to support the rapid development of new programs.’

“The report points out that ‘KBR is the engineering and construction subsidiary of Halliburton.’ So, in addition to authorizing another \$532.8 billion for the Pentagon, including a \$70-billion ‘supplemental provision’ which covers the cost of the ongoing, made military maneuvers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places, the new law, signed by the president in a private White House ceremony, further collapses the historic divide between the police and the military: a tell-tale sign of a rapidly consolidating police state in America, all accomplished amidst ongoing US imperial pretensions of global domination, sold to an ‘emergency managed’ and seemingly willfully gullible public as a ‘global war on terrorism.’

“Make no mistake about it: the de-facto repeal of the Posse Comitatus Act (PCA) is an ominous assault on American democratic tradition and jurisprudence. The 1878 Act, which reads, ‘Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a Posse Comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both,’ is the only US criminal statute that outlaws military operations directed against the American people under the cover of ‘law enforcement.’ As such, it has been the best protection we’ve had against the power-hungry intentions of an unscrupulous and reckless executive, an executive intent on using force to enforce its will.

“Unfortunately, the President dealt Posse Comitatus, along with American democracy, a near fatal blow. Consequently, it will take an aroused citizenry to undo the damage wrought by this horrendous act, part and parcel, as we have seen, of a long train of abuses and outrages perpetrated by this authoritarian administration.

“Despite the unprecedented and shocking nature of this act, there has been no outcry in the American media, and little reaction from our elected officials in Congress. On September 19th, a lone Senator, Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont), noted that 2007’s Defense Authorization Act contained a ‘widely opposed provision to allow the President more control over the National Guard [adopting] changes to the Insurrection Act, which will make it easier for this or any future President to use the military to restore domestic order without the consent of the nation’s governors.’

“Senator Leahy went on to stress that, ‘we certainly do not need to make it easier for Presidents to declare martial law. Invoking the Insurrection Act and using the military for law enforcement activities goes against some of the central tenets of our democracy. One can easily envision governors and mayors in charge of an emergency having to constantly look over their shoulders while someone who has never visited their communities gives the orders.’

“A few weeks later, on the 29th of September, Leahy entered into the Congressional Record that he had ‘grave reservations about certain provisions of the fiscal Year 2007 Defense Authorization Bill Conference Report,’ the language of which, he said, ‘subverts solid, longstanding Posse Comitatus statutes that limit the military’s involvement in law enforcement, thereby making it easier for the President to declare martial law.’ This had been ‘slipped in,’ Leahy said, ‘as a rider with little study,’ while ‘other congressional committees with jurisdiction over these matters had no chance to comment, let alone hold hearings on, these proposals.’

“In a telling bit of understatement, the Senator from Vermont noted that ‘the implications of changing the (Posse Comitatus) Act are enormous.’ ‘There is good reason,’ he said, ‘for the constructive friction in existing law when it comes to martial law declarations. Using the military for law enforcement goes against one of the founding tenets of our democracy. We fail our Constitution, neglecting the rights of the States, when we make it easier for the President to declare martial law and trample on local and state sovereignty.’

Senator Leahy’s final ruminations: ‘Since hearing word a couple of weeks ago that this outcome was likely, I have wondered how Congress could have gotten to this point. It seems the changes to the Insurrection Act have survived the Conference because the Pentagon and the White House want it.’

“The historic and ominous re-writing of the Insurrection Act, accomplished in the dead of night, which gives Bush the legal authority to declare martial law, is now an accomplished fact.

“The Pentagon, as one might expect, plays an even more direct role in martial law operations. Title XIV of the new law, entitled, ‘Homeland Defense Technology Transfer Legislative Provisions,’ authorizes ‘the Secretary of Defense to create a Homeland Defense Technology Transfer Consortium to improve the effectiveness of the Department of Defense (DOD) processes for identifying and deploying relevant DOD technology to federal, State, and local first responders.’

“In other words, the law facilitates the ‘transfer’ of the newest in so-called ‘crowd control’ technology and other weaponry designed to suppress dissent from the Pentagon to local militarized police units. The new law builds on and further codifies earlier ‘technology transfer’ agreements, specifically the 1995 DOD-Justice Department memorandum of agreement achieved back during the Clinton-Reno regime.

“It had become clear that a critical mass of the American people had seen through the lies of the Bush administration; with the President’s polls at an historic low, growing resistance to the war Iraq, and the Democrats took back the Congress in mid-term elections, the Bush administration was on the ropes. And so it was particularly worrying that President Bush had seen fit, at this juncture to, in effect, declare himself dictator.”

“See I told you Hillary wasn’t bad. Where did you find out about that?”

“A reader posted the article on The Frugal Squirrel Forum and I looked it up. Fortunately, he gave a link.”

“When was that?”

“Late October or early November of 2006, before the mid-term elections. That may have been why all of a sudden, there wasn’t any doubt that Democrats would retake Congress. Their margin was slim, so we had a do nothing Congress for 2 years. That wasn’t unusual in and of itself, but look at what happened in 2008. Derek, I don’t suppose there is any way you can get out of your National Guard commitment is there?”

“I reenlisted for 6 years in 2005.”

“It’s just like those magazines I bought. Someone read on one of the forums that I was buying high capacity magazines and the parcel post shipments were intercepted. I bought more and had them shipped to another friend and I met him in his home state and hauled them back myself. Worse, the price had gone up since I made the first purchase. At the time, I didn’t know we were moving to Texas.”

“So what happened to the magazines?”

“They probably went to the dead letter office and were subsequently given to the cops.”

“What did you get?”

“Ten 20-round T-57 magazines for my M1A and 5 30-round for Ron’s Kel-Tec SU-16.”

“How many the second time?”

“25 of each. I kept 20 of the M16 magazines and gave 5 to Ron. That’s why I have so many magazines for my M1As.”

“I’m just glad you didn’t buy me a gun, Dad.”

“But Amy, I did. I didn’t give it to you because you’d just turn it in. I’d cry if I knew you’d handed in a brand new Browning Hi-Power. Besides, I bought it in Texas and it has standard 13-round magazines.”

“What kind of ammo?”

“I have a little of the Gold Dot and a lot of the Lawman FMJ ammo.”

“Amy, you have to make a decision. It will probably be the most important decision of your life. You can quit your job and stay here or you can go back to the People’s Republik of Kalifornia. That’s going to be a separate decision for Lorrie and your mom is talking to her about it right now. Shall we go eat cake?”

“What flavor is it?”

“I only like one kind of cake, Devil’s Food. Devil’s-food cake is a rich, chocolate layer cake. While it is often considered a counterpart to angel cake, the two cake types are very different: aside from being chocolate-flavored, devil’s-food cake incorporates butter (or a substitute) and far less egg. In fact, devil’s-food cake is more closely related to red velvet cake, both in terms of history and preparation. The recipe for this cake was first printed in 1905. It’s been described as follows: Devil’s food. A cake, muffin, or cookie made with dark chocolate, so called because it is supposedly so rich and delicious that it must be somewhat sinful, although the association is clearly made with humor. Its dark color contrasted with the snowy white of angel-food cake, an earlier confection. The first devil’s food recipe appeared in 1900, after which recipes and references became frequent in cookbooks. The “red devil’s food cake,” given a reddish-brown color by the mixture of coca and baking soda, is post-World War II version of the standard devil’s food cake.”

“Give me a lecture, already.”

“Don’t ask a question if you don’t want a complete answer.”

“Hey, this isn’t a layer cake.”

“I know, it’s Joyce Leto’s recipe. Best Devil’s Food cake I’ve ever eaten.”

Derek laughed; he liked Devil’s Food cake, too.

Silent Running – Chapter 6

*Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm
Into this house we're born
Into this world we're thrown
Like a dog without a bone
An actor out alone
Riders on the storm*

*There's a killer on the road
His brain is squirmin' like a toad
Take a long holiday
Let your children play
If ya give this man a ride
Sweet memory will die
Killer on the road, yeah*

*Girl ya gotta love your man
Girl ya gotta love your man
Take him by the hand
Make him understand
The world on you depends
Our life will never end
Gotta love your man, yeah
Wow!*

*Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm
Into this house we're born
Into this world we're thrown
Like a dog without a bone
An actor out alone*

*Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm
Riders on the storm*

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Morrison died on 3Jul71, at age 27, and was found in his bathtub by Courson. According to Stephen Davis' biography of Morrison, it was reported that he had dried blood around his mouth and nose and large bruising on his chest. This suggests Morrison

might have died from a massive hemorrhage caused by tuberculosis. Many fans and biographers have speculated that the cause of death was a drug overdose, but the official report listed the cause of death as heart failure. No autopsy was performed because the medical examiner, pursuant to French law, found no evidence of foul play. The lack of an official autopsy left many questions unanswered and provided a fertile breeding ground for speculation and rumor.

That song of Jim Morrison and the Doors seems so appropriate now that I think about it. We were about to embark on a dangerous course. We took it for granted that something would happen to let Hillary invoke the powers she'd inherited from Bush. As I said, it wasn't a question of if, just what and when. I wouldn't put it past her to set off one of our suitcase bombs, if push came to shove. The US had built 300 of the W32 Mod. 1 Y4 Atomic Demolition Munitions.

They claim: In the 1950s and 1960s, the US developed lightweight nuclear devices to use in the interest of US national security. The W-54 Special Atomic Demolition Munition (SADM) was a Navy and Marines project that was demonstrated as feasible in the mid-to-late 1960s, but was never used. The project, which involved a small nuclear weapon, was designed to allow one individual to parachute from any type of aircraft carrying the weapon package that would be placed in a harbor or other strategic location that could be accessed from the sea. Another parachutist without a weapon package would follow the first parachutist to provide support as needed. The two-man team would place the weapon package in an acceptable location, set the timer, and swim out into the ocean where they would be retrieved by a submarine or other high-speed water craft. The parachute jumps and the retrieval procedures were practiced extensively. While the procedures were practiced extensively, SADM was never used. These types of weapons are no longer in the stockpile.

I'm not big on Conspiracy Theories, but let me ask you a question. If they had them, would they tell us? Admittedly, it can get confusing because of the wide open border with Mexico. We had heard for years that terrorists had brought in nuclear weapons. That was either true or a disinformation campaign. With that single claim, George W. Bush could do so much and sign laws like the Military Commissions Act and the John Warner Defense Authorization Act of 2007. I ignored his antics, figuring Laura would keep him in place. The reason was she was raised as a Methodist, just like I was. We don't usually get really worked up over anything. He also signed The Secure Fence Act.

In a way, I proved to be right; Bush wasn't The Man Who Would Be King (Kipling). In fact, he removed all of our troops from Afghanistan and Iraq, probably to prevent the Democrats from claiming they did it. On the other hand, the entire family decided to go ranching in Paraguay, go figure. Do you suppose he finally figured out what would happen to the country if Hillary won and had all those bills he'd signed into law could be used against the American people? Thank God he signed the repeal. The MCA was ruled unconstitutional.

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It's very difficult for me to imagine what it would really be like when the government turns against the people. I can easily envision it happening, but it's so hard to know what will happen first. I assume the first thing they would do is build camps, in preparation of imprisoning people who didn't follow the party line, ergo, refused to get the embedded capsules. There are a large number of national Guardsmen (and women) who wouldn't tramp on our liberties; I have Derek in mind when I say that. Can you believe the statement that Dubya made?

Who is the only American to be awarded the Congressional Medal for service in peacetime? He also earned:

The Purple Heart,
The Bronze Star with V device,
The Air Force Commendation medal,
The Silver Star with oak leaf cluster,
The Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster,
The Distinguished Service Medal,
The Distinguished Flying Cross with two clusters,
The Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem with one oak leaf cluster,
The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and
The Air Medal with ten clusters.

Let's see, he commanded the 405th fighter wing out of the Philippines, flying 127 air-support missions, and training bomber pilots. He flew 64 combat missions in World War II. On one occasion he shot down a German jet from a prop plane. By war's end he had downed 13 enemy aircraft, five in a single day. You know now, right? He didn't have *The Right Stuff*. Never mind he helped design the Bell X-1 that he flew beyond the sound barrier. A friend tells me he's a frequent visitor at Beale AFB.

I was curious and looked up the John Warner bill. Here's what section 333 actually says:

SEC. 333. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE OF SECURITY GUARD FUNCTIONS.

(a) EXTENSION AND LIMITATION ON TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS.—

Section 332(c) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107314) is amended —

(1) by striking "September 30, 2007" both places it appears and inserting "September 30, 2009";

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

"(d) **LIMITATION.**--The total number of personnel employed to perform security guard functions under all contracts entered into pursuant to this section shall not exceed —

“(1) for fiscal year 2007, the total number of such personnel employed under such contracts on October 1, 2006;

“(2) for fiscal year 2008, the number equal to 90 percent of the total number of such personnel employed under such contracts on October 1, 2006; and

“(3) for fiscal year 2009, the number equal to 80 percent of the total number of such personnel employed under such contracts on October 1, 2006.”.

(b) REPORT ON CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE OF SECURITY-GUARD FUNCTIONS. – Not later than February 1, 2007, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on contractor performance of security guard functions under section 332 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). The report shall include the following:

(1) An explanation of progress made toward implementing each of the seven recommendations in the Comptroller General report entitled “Contract Security Guards: Army’s Guard Program Requires Greater Oversight and Reassessment of Acquisition Approach” (GAO06284).

(2) An assessment, taking into consideration the observations made by the Comptroller General on the report of the Department of Defense of November 2005 that is entitled “Department of Defense Installation Security Guard Requirement Assessment and Plan”, of the following:

(A) The cost-effectiveness of using contractors rather than Department of Defense employees to perform security-guard functions.

(B) The performance of contractors employed as security guards compared with the performance of military personnel who have served as security guards.

(C) Specific results of on-site visits made by officials designated by the Secretary of Defense to military installations using contractors to perform security-guard functions.

(c) CONTRACT LIMITATION. – No contract may be entered into under section 332 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization

It wasn’t there, so I kept looking:

SEC. 1076. USE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN MAJOR PUBLIC EMERGENCIES.

(a) USE OF THE ARMED FORCES AUTHORIZED. –

(1) IN GENERAL.--Section 333 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“333. Major public emergencies; interference with State and Federal law

“(a) USE OF ARMED FORCES IN MAJOR PUBLIC EMERGENCIES. –

(1) The President may employ the armed forces, including the National Guard in Federal service, to –

“(A) restore public order and enforce the laws of the United States when, as a result of a natural disaster, epidemic, or other serious public health emergency, terrorist attack or incident, or other condition in any State or possession of the United States, the President determines that –

“(i) domestic violence has occurred to such an extent that the constituted authorities of the State or possession are incapable of maintaining public order; and

“(ii) such violence results in a condition described in paragraph (2); or

“(B) suppress, in a State, any insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combination, or conspiracy if such insurrection, violation, combination, or conspiracy results in a condition described in paragraph (2).

“(2) A condition described in this paragraph is a condition that –

“(A) so hinders the execution of the laws of a State or possession, as applicable, and of the United States within that State or possession, that any part or class of its people is deprived of a right, privilege, immunity, or protection named in the Constitution and secured by law, and the constituted authorities of that State or possession are unable, fail, or refuse to protect that right, privilege, or immunity, or to give that protection; or

“(B) opposes or obstructs the execution of the laws of the United States or impedes the course of justice under those laws.

“(3) In any situation covered by paragraph (1)(B), the State shall be considered to have denied the equal protection of the laws secured by the Constitution.

“(b) NOTICE TO CONGRESS. – The President shall notify Congress of the determination to exercise the authority in subsection (a)(1)(A) as soon as practicable after the determination and every 14 days thereafter during the duration of the exercise of that authority.”.

(2) PROCLAMATION TO DISPERSE.--Section 334 of such title is amended by inserting “or those obstructing the enforcement of the laws” after “insurgents”.

(3) HEADING AMENDMENT. – The heading of chapter 15 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 15--ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS TO RESTORE PUBLIC ORDER”.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.--(A) The tables of chapters at the beginning of subtitle A of title 10, United States Code, and at the beginning of part I of such subtitle, are each amended by striking the item relating to chapter 15 and inserting the following new item: “15 Enforcement of the Laws to Restore Public Order 331”.

(B) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 15 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to sections 333 and inserting the following new item:

“333. Major public emergencies; interference with State and Federal law.”.

(b) PROVISION OF SUPPLIES, SERVICES, AND EQUIPMENT. –

(1) IN GENERAL. – Chapter 152 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“2567. Supplies, services, and equipment: provision in major public emergencies

“(a) PROVISION AUTHORIZED. – In any situation in which the President determines to exercise the authority in section 333(a)(1)(A) of this title, the President may direct the Secretary of Defense to provide supplies, services, and equipment to persons affected by the situation.

“(b) COVERED SUPPLIES, SERVICES, AND EQUIPMENT. – The supplies, services, and equipment provided under this section may include food, water, utilities, bedding, transportation, tentage, search and rescue, medical care, minor repairs, the removal of debris, and other assistance necessary for the immediate preservation of life and property.

“(c) LIMITATIONS. – (1) Supplies, services, and equipment may be provided under this section–

“(A) only to the extent that the constituted authorities of the State or possession concerned are unable to provide such supplies, services, and equipment, as the case may be; and

“(B) only until such authorities, or other departments or agencies of the United States charged with the provision of such supplies, services, and equipment, are able to provide such supplies, services, and equipment.

“(2) The Secretary may provide supplies, services, and equipment under this section only to the extent that the Secretary determines that doing so will not interfere with military preparedness or ongoing military operations or functions.

“(d) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES. – The provision of supplies, services, or equipment under this section shall not be subject to the provisions of section 403(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 USC 5170b(c)).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT. – The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2567. Supplies, services, and equipment: provision in major public emergencies”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.--Section 12304(c)(1) of such title is amended by striking “No unit” and all that follows through “subsection (b),” and inserting “Except to perform any of the functions authorized by chapter 15 or section 12406 of this title or by subsection (b), no unit or member of a reserve component may be ordered to active duty under this section”.

It was true, but I made sure before I had teeth marks on my knees. We were screwed and didn't even get kissed. While Damon went home to get his things, Derek looked for a job in the Paris area and Mary went back home with the kids to drive the school bus. Derek checked with the Post Office in Paris and they had an opening. He could transfer without any penalty. He stayed until the weekend and Mary and the kids came after him. They went home and prepared to move into a rental unit in Paris.

Sharon had managed to talk Lorrie into staying. Lorrie called David and all he said was, “Whatever.” I had plans, when Damon got here, I give him extra shells for his shotgun and he could go after Lorrie's things. He was just crazy enough to pull it off and not hurt anyone. David would have to settle for sleeping with one woman until he could find a new second one. The bedroom suite, the hutch and the dining room table were Lorrie's. Most everything else belonged to David or was joint property and Sharon and I could replace anything that got left behind.

Amy was true to herself and returned to the PRK. She didn't believe any part of our discussion. She wanted to take the Browning back with her, but I said it wasn't going to Kalifornia. She hardly spoke to me after that and I couldn't wait for her to leave. I could never figure out how Daddy's little girl grew up to be such an asshole. She'd probably say, “Like father, like daughter.”

When Damon returned, we were surprised to find he had the kids with him. Britney was in 11th grade, Aaron in 9th and Eric in 7th. I asked Damon about it and he said, "I made her an offer she couldn't refuse."

"If that's the case, fill up your gas tank. Lorrie stayed and someone needs to go to Palmdale and get her stuff. She has a master bedroom suite, a dining room table set and a hutch. You can get extra ammo if you need it from the armory."

"I'll take Aaron, can you loan him something to shoot?"

"How about my California legal M1A?"

"You have any California legal magazines?"

"Only 3, but I have plenty of the California illegal ones."

"We shouldn't have trouble; we'd better not take those with us."

"Aaron, take this backpack and put it under your seat. Don't tell your Dad."

"What's in the bag, Grandpa?"

"Let's just say that if you find yourself in a situation where you have to use the rifle I'm loaning you, it's ok to open the bag. It's best that you don't know before then, what you don't know can't hurt you."

I truly wish that what I told Aaron was true, but he didn't need to know that the pack contained 10 loaded 20-round magazines plus a pair of 140-round battle packs. He'd find out only if he needed to know. Another reason I didn't tell him was guilty knowledge. I assumed that if he didn't know what was in the pack, he wouldn't act guilty and get caught by the Kalifornia Border Patrol, aka Agricultural Inspectors. People only had until July 1, 2009 to register their firearms. Furthermore, if they inspected the vehicle and found the guns, both the shotgun and rifle were Kalifornia legal.

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The Mesoamerican civilizations included the Incans (Peru-Chile), the Mayan (Yucatan) and the Aztecs (Mexico City). Cortez defeated the Aztecs under Montezuma and Pizarro defeated the Incans under Atahualpa. The Maya people never disappeared, neither at the time of the Classic period decline or with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores and the subsequent Spanish colonization of the Americas. The Maya remain in contemporary Mesoamerican societies, and maintain a distinctive set of traditions and beliefs, combined with more recent practices such as the almost total adoption of Roman Catholicism. The Maya and their descendants form sizeable populations throughout the region formerly occupied by the states of the ancient civilization. Many different Mayan languages continue to be spoken as the primary language. Maybe their philoso-

phy was if you don't fight, you can't lose. I seemed to remember one of the Conquistadors having been killed by the natives by having melted gold poured down his throat to satisfy his thirst for treasures. It took a while to figure out which one, his name was Pedro de Valdivia, the conqueror of Chile. He wasn't the only person to die in that manner.

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"Did you have any trouble?"

"No, but I don't think her junk was worth the gas. What was the idea of giving that pack to Aaron, he opened on the way back and I almost had a heart attack."

"I didn't tell him what was inside so he wouldn't flush if asked if he had any high capacity magazines."

"You might have given me a hint."

"Sorry Damon, but I have no idea how good of liar you are. You'd better get the weapons in the armory and empty those magazines. You can use the cartridges to load 10 empties. Remember, I sold all of my firearms at a gun show. I'll go open the ramp for you while you unload Lorrie's stuff."

"Here are the... how the hell did you do that?"

"Open the entrance to the ramp? We built a platform and stacked a cord of wood on top of it. There are rollers on the bottom of the frame. It has a lock and unless you know what it is, you can't get it to move."

"Will you show me?"

"Sure, let's get the weapons downstairs and I show you how to lock it when we come back up."

"Now, all you have to do is push the platform back in place and insert this post. Give it a quarter turn and it locks in place and the platform won't move."

"You seem to like secret rooms, Dad."

"Well, I have created a few in my stories, but that keeps getting harder."

"Did you figure out that new law yet?"

"Sort of. I think I know why it got passed and signed. That happened barely 15 months after Hurricane Katrina. If you recall, there was a whole bunch of bad press because Bush didn't suspend Posse Comitatus and send soldiers into New Orleans as police-

man when the cops got shot at. I think they had their eyes on the good the law would do and didn't consider the possible abuses."

"You taking his side? Do you like this new law?"

"I'm explaining what I believe they were thinking about, not excusing a law so full of potential abuses."

"You must believe someone will abuse that power."

"I do. Long ago in a faraway time, people were talking about Hillary and her bringing in the UN if she ever got elected."

Amy was angry and didn't talk to me the first full week she was in Texas. I decided to try and break the ice by giving her the Browning. Either she was going to take it and learn to shoot it or I was a dead man. I almost didn't care; we had circled the wagons and were just waiting for the shoe to drop.

The first clue that something was happening was when some of the military installations on the BRAC 2005 list were kept open. KBR got the contract to erect fenced in 'housing areas' but it didn't make the news. I heard it on the ham net from a ham operator who lived near one of the bases they were supposedly closing. He said something about them bringing in those portable guard towers I written about several stories back.

"Do you know anything about the government setting up relocation camps?"

"Dad, I heard that people who aren't going along with the embedded chip may be arrested. But, it's only supposed to last until they have their chip injected. The word was they'd be released after."

"Derek, it wouldn't be the first time the government interred US citizens. When I was in the Air Force at Lowry AFB, one of the guys in my barracks was a Japanese American who had been interred during WW II. President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the internment with EO 9066, which allowed local military commanders to designate 'military areas' as 'exclusion zones', from which 'any or all persons may be excluded.' Twelve days later, this power was used to declare that all people of Japanese ancestry were excluded from the entire Pacific coast, including all of California and most of Oregon and Washington. In 1944, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the exclusion, removal, and detention, arguing that it is permissible to curtail the civil rights of a racial group when there is a 'pressing public necessity.'

"Some compensation for property losses was paid in 1948, but most internees were unable to fully recover their losses. In 1988, President Reagan signed legislation which apologized for the internment on behalf of the US government. The legislation stated that government actions were based on 'race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of

political leadership', and beginning in 1990, the government paid reparations to surviving internees."

"Dad, they wouldn't do that," Amy protested.

"Amy, they already did it. They could just as easily declare a Major National Emergency and imprison Muslims, like they did in the Bruce Willis movie, *The Siege*. Or, they could declare all illegal immigrants a threat to National Security constituting a Major National Emergency and imprison up to 15 million people. Is it a stretch to think they would imprison people for not getting the biometric ID chips?"

"What about that border fence?"

"Amy, that's just making the coyotes richer, it isn't stopping immigration from south of the border. To do that, the government would have to enact immigration reform and a guest worker program."

"It's getting so you have to speak Spanish to get along in California, Dad."

"That's the problem with not having an official national language. Man, am I glad your mother and I moved to Texas. The problem with illegals isn't as bad up in this corner of the state. I presume you know about the Aztlán Invasion?"

"What's that?"

"It refers to the Méxicans from the area of México City who can trace their ancestry back to the Aztecs. There are several groups that would like to, I think the term is Reconquista, take back the part of México that was ceded to the US."

"But Dad that would start a war."

"Not at first. It would start out with the local Hispanic population taking over a small town or area and then expand. I'd imagine the government would stick its head in the sand until the problem became very noticeable. Keep that in mind, Amy, when I point out that there are nearly as many Muslims in the US as there are illegal Mexicans. You should have driven down to Glendale when you were in Kalifornia."

"Our old housing tract is down to about 5 non-Hispanic families."

"What was the crime rate like?"

"Way up, about like St. Louis."

"I'm not surprised."

Silent Running – Chapter 7

*You know that it would be untrue
You know that I would be a liar
If I was to say to you
Girl, we couldn't get much higher*

*Come on baby, light my fire
Come on baby, light my fire
Try to set the night on fire*

*The time to hesitate is through
No time to wallow in the mire
Try now we can only lose
And our love become a funeral pyre*

*Come on baby, light my fire
Come on baby, light my fire
Try to set the night on fire, yeah*

*The time to hesitate is through
No time to wallow in the mire
Try now we can only lose
And our love become a funeral pyre*

*Come on baby, light my fire
Come on baby, light my fire
Try to set the night on fire, yeah*

*You know that it would be untrue
You know that I would be a liar
If I was to say to you
Girl, we couldn't get much higher*

*Come on baby, light my fire
Come on baby, light my fire
Try to set the night on fire
Try to set the night on fire
Try to set the night on fire
Try to set the night on fire*

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More from the Doors? I didn't like the group but I did like some of their music.

The first arrests came as a result of people not having the implanted ID chips. Initially they were taken to a hospital and the chip implanted/reimplanted. People who removed those chips were eventually rearrested and taken to an internment camp where they were checked at every meal to make sure they still had their implants. We wore long sleeves and hid the implants we had taped to our wrists. They scanned just fine and we were getting by with it, for a while.

My main problem, something I've mentioned before, was my tape allergy. Even the hypoallergenic tape gave me a rash. On those rare instances that I had to leave home, I'd tape on the ID chip and go. I'd generally just use a Band-Aid and a little Neosporin crème to hold it in place and tell the doctor it was a scratch from one of the cats or dogs. I got a tetanus shot out of my claim so it wasn't all a bad thing.

Amy was the first one who got caught with the taped on chip and it was promptly reimplanted and she was given a warning. At first, she didn't even tell me and kept wearing the tape. I suppose I'd have never found out except that one day she showed up without the Band-Aid and I asked about it.

"I got caught, Dad. They reimplanted the chip and warned me that if I dug it out again, I end up in a camp."

"Ok, leave it in, for now. I don't want to have to try and break you out of an internment camp."

In our case, the Domino Principle related to the implanted chips. The term originated with President Dwight D. Eisenhower in a news conference.

The President's News Conference of April 7, 1954

Robert Richards, Copley Press:

Mr. President, would you mind commenting on the strategic importance of Indochina to the free world? I think there has been, across the country, some lack of understanding on just what it means to us.

The President:

You have, of course, both the specific and the general when you talk about such things.

First of all, you have the specific value of a locality in its production of materials that the world needs.

Then you have the possibility that many human beings pass under a dictatorship that is inimical to the free world.

Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the “falling domino” principle. You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences.

Now, with respect to the first one, two of the items from this particular area that the world uses are tin and tungsten. They are very important. There are others, of course, the rubber plantations and so on.

Then with respect to more people passing under this domination, Asia, after all, has already lost some 450 million of its peoples to the Communist dictatorship, and we simply can't afford greater losses.

But when we come to the possible sequence of events, the loss of Indochina, of Burma, of Thailand, of the Peninsula, and Indonesia following, now you begin to talk about areas that not only multiply the disadvantages that you would suffer through loss of materials, sources of materials, but now you are talking really about millions and millions and millions of people.

Finally, the geographical position achieved thereby does many things. It turns the so-called island defensive chain of Japan, Formosa, of the Philippines and to the southward; it moves in to threaten Australia and New Zealand.

It takes away, in its economic aspects, that region that Japan must have as a trading area or Japan, in turn, will have only one place in the world to go – that is, toward the Communist areas in order to live.

So, the possible consequences of the loss are just incalculable to the free world.

They made a movie by the same name starting Gene Hackman, it wasn't well received.

The domino theory is based on three assumptions about alliance formation. The first assumption claims that, because states are attracted to power and consistent demonstrations of strength, the more powerful a coalition leader is and the more clearly and reliably its power is projected, the more likely others are to align with it. It follows that a decline in a coalition leader's relative position causes defections – often to the rival side – on the part of its allies and potential partners (the unaligned). The second assumption claims that the more similar two or more states are ideologically, the more likely they are to unite politically. Lastly, it is assumed that certain ideologies (on account of their precepts) can render tight, insular coalition bonds as well as acute competition between rivals.

With the above in mind, the domino theory unfolds as follows. Because states are attracted to power and credibility, coalition leaders must regularly and effectively demonstrate their strength as a means of retaining and attracting as many allies as possible. It

follows that signs of political and military weakness are correlated with defections and alignment with opposing coalitions. According to the domino theory, even a single successful display of superior force by one coalition can trigger a domino effect whereby one state after another will choose to align with the stronger coalition (since states are attracted to power and credibility). It stands to reason that if two or more coalitions are battling for allies, the domino effect is a valuable (albeit risky) foreign policy instrument. For instance, in regions of the world where states remain largely unaligned, the domino theory predicts that even one ill-timed display of weakness by one coalition leader can trigger the domino effect in which the unaligned states join the opposing side in succession. Likewise, just one robust display of strength by one coalition leader can cause unaligned states to link forces with it in opposition to others.

In strategic thinking about the domino theory, ideology often plays a leading role. Because ideologically similar states can easily unite according to the domino theory, coalition leaders must pay particular attention to unaligned states in which ideologies are battling for supremacy. Apparently, if a coalition leader, who supports one ideology over others, displays weakness in its international engagements, the battling factions in unaligned states will naturally reject the losing ideology and possibly unite under one of its more robust rivals. Once a state is united under one ideology, it will politically align with other states like it. Clearly then, if an ideology underscores universal domination, it is imperative that the coalition leaders, who will be negatively affected by its ascendancy, never allow it to spread, especially by triggering the domino effect.

In point of fact, there was a 'no questions asked' principle that came out shortly after the first camp began receiving internees. After Amy got caught, we discussed it as a family and decided she should keep the chip implanted. Mary indicated that she'd nearly been caught and the discussion turned to the possibility of our availing ourselves of the no questions asked deal. The chips were implanted subcutaneously and could be easily removed, if necessary. Derek and I were outvoted and we all went to have the chips re-implanted. That really stuck in our craws.

"Well, there's another fine mess you've gotten me into".

"Buzz, the quote is 'Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into.' I swear I told you that before."

"You probably wrote it in one of your stories, Dad."

"Oh, I'm sure I did, kid."

"When are you going to stop calling me kid? I'm 35 years old!"

"When I die."

"Promise?"

“Nah, Derek, Dad is probably lying.”

“I call you kid too, Damon.”

“Sometimes I feel like a kid, but you’re the one who acts like a kid most often Dad.”

“Yeah right, who’s on first?”

“What’s on second, I Don’t Know is on third... we know Dad, Abbott and Costello.”

“The duo was voted the seventh greatest comedy act ever by fellow comedians and comedy insiders, making them the most popular double act on the list. In the US and Canada, the tradition was more popular in the earlier part of the 20th century with vaudeville-derived acts such as Abbott and Costello, Burns and Allen, and Wheeler and Woolsey, and continuing into the television age with Martin and Lewis, Bob and Ray, the Smothers Brothers, Wayne and Shuster, Allen and Rossi, Burns and Schreiber, Rowan and Martin, Nichols and May, and Cheech and Chong. Only Laurel and Hardy made the Comedian’s Comedian List.”

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Clowning around broke the tension we were all feeling after deciding to have those darned chips reimplanted. I really wonder if Ike knew what he was getting us into by supporting Diệm? Diệm was assassinated just 20 days before JFK. I won’t dwell on our first Vietnam or the second they called Iraqi Freedom. Back to the point, who would have thought that the president had noble motives when he signed the John Warner Act? Perhaps when he realized the import of what he signed, he decided to retire to Paraguay.

We went in one at a time to various doctors and clinics to have the chips reinserted, if we all showed up at once, I have probably been held responsible and gone to a camp. I was responsible, but didn’t like the idea of any American being imprisoned over something that was clearly unconstitutional. Now, get this:

- States Estimate Cost of Real ID Will Be \$11 Billion. The National Conference of State Legislatures released a report on the Real ID, which estimates that that the cost to the states will be more than \$11 billion over five years. The federal REAL ID Act creates national standards for issuing state drivers licenses and identification cards. States also expressed concern regarding the application of the Drivers Privacy Protection Act to the records retention and information sharing requirements of REAL ID.
- Privacy and Security Flaws Imperil Transit Worker ID Program. Security and privacy problems have delayed the implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program. TWIC is a Homeland Security program designed to screen the backgrounds of and issue biometric ID cards to the nation’s 750,000 air, land and sea transportation workers. TWIC implementation is being watched closely, as it has many

aspects similar to the REAL ID card. Real ID mandates federal requirements for state driver's licenses, and it requires state DMVs to verify identification documents, such as birth certificates.

- State Committee Urges New Mexico to Ignore REAL ID Act. Members of the New Mexico State Legislature's Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee derided the REAL ID Act, calling it de facto national ID, and urged the state to ignore the act. The members said it was an unfunded mandate that would cost the state at least \$13 million to implement.

History

National ID cards have long been advocated as a means to enhance national security, unmask potential terrorists, and guard against illegal immigrants. They are in use in many countries around the world including most European countries, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Currently, the United States and the United Kingdom have continued to debate the merits of adopting national ID cards. The types of card, their functions, and privacy safeguards vary widely.

Americans have rejected the idea of a national ID card. When the Social Security Number (SSN) was created in 1936, it was meant to be used only as an account number associated with the administration of the Social Security system. Though use of the SSN has expanded considerably, it is not a universal identifier and efforts to make it one have been consistently rejected. In 1971, the Social Security Administration task force on the SSN rejected the extension of the Social Security Number to the status of an ID card. In 1973, the Health, Education and Welfare Secretary's Advisory Committee on Automated Personal Data Systems concluded that a national identifier was not desirable. In 1976, the Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification rejected the idea of an identifier.

In 1977, the Carter Administration reiterated that the SSN was not to become an identifier, and in 1981 the Reagan Administration stated that it was "explicitly opposed" to the creation of a national ID card. The Clinton administration advocated a "Health Security Card" in 1993 and assured the public that the card, issued to every American, would have "full protection for privacy and confidentiality." Still, the idea was rejected and the health security card was never created. In 1999 Congress repealed a controversial provision in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 which gave authorization to include Social Security Numbers on driver's licenses.

In response to the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, there has been renewed interest in the creation of national ID cards. Soon after the attacks, Larry Ellison, head of California-based software company Oracle Corporation, called for the development of a national identification system and offered to donate the technology to make this possible. He proposed ID cards with embedded digitized thumbprints and photographs of all legal residents in the US. There was much public debate about the issue, and Congressional

hearings were held. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich testified that he “would not institute a national ID card because you do get into civil liberties issues.”

When it created the Department of Homeland Security, Congress made clear in the enabling legislation that the agency could not create a national ID system. In September 2004, then-DHS Secretary Tom Ridge reiterated, “[t]he legislation that created the Department of Homeland Security was very specific on the question of a national ID card. They said there will be no national ID card.”

The public continues to debate the issue, and there have been many other proposals for the creation of a national identification system, some through the standardization of state driver’s licenses. The debate remains in the international spotlight – several nations are considering implementing such systems. The US Congress recently passed the Real ID Act of 2005, which mandates federal requirements for driver’s licenses. Critics argue that it would make driver’s licenses into de facto national IDs.

Yeah, right, there won’t be any National ID Card. We had biometric Passports, conforming REAL ID cards and yesterday in the mail we got Internal Passports and travel documents. When I posted the first chapter, people wanted to know where the story was going. I’ll answer that, to hell in a handcart. Now get this, the Internal Passport wasn’t a substitute for a state driver’s license or ID card, it was just another layer. Two years after Tom Ridge said there would be no National ID Card, the Congress passed the REAL ID Act of 2005. From what I’ve seen on the forums, there were a bunch of angry squirrels.

The only problem Hillary had was the lack of a Major Public Emergency. The ‘no questions asked’ provision worked too well. It would either take an earthquake, hurricane or volcano in the natural realm or a terrorist act to let her make the declaration. As a family, we were very much ready for anything that came down the pike, be it friend or foe. I was dying to shoot my M1A rifles at something besides paper targets. I had a little of that Raufoss, Derek had seen to it. To be perfectly honest, I wanted more, more and more. Worse, his last two postings had been to Maintenance Companies, nowhere he was likely to find it laying around.

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“You know boys, when we lived in Kalifornia, I couldn’t get large capacity magazines easily, but I did anyway. What in the name of God is so hard about finding me 1,200 rounds of Raufoss? It’s made here in the US by Winchester and others under license.”

“It’s an HEIAP round Dad, military only. You have ball, AP, and APIT, why do you need HEIAP?”

“Because I want some?”

“I got you some, 120 rounds.”

“And I used 10 rounds sighting in the Tac-50. That only leaves me 110 rounds and I have 10 magazines, I loaded half with ball, and the other half with Raufoss. The problem is I don’t have any Raufoss reloads. What’s more, the other ammo doesn’t shoot to the same point of aim.”

“I know where they have it, but I can’t get any.”

“You do? Hmm, tell Damon where they have it and maybe he can work something out.”

“You mean steal it?”

“It runs in the family, you set a thief to catch a thief and I was a very good auditor. I’m just happy it didn’t rub off on you. You tell him and then forget you told him. Like I said, we’ll work something out.”

“We haven’t had any trouble so far, I don’t want any.”

“Can I help it we haven’t had a Major Public Emergency? If Broom Hillary thought she could get away with it, she’d have declared one by now. I’m telling you, a nuclear weapon is going to be exploded on our soil. Odds are it will be one of ours and that will be all the excuse she needs.”

“That’s nothing but a conspiracy theory.”

“Just because most of them are crap doesn’t mean they all are.”

o

Near as I could tell, Derek must have told Damon where he could find Raufoss ammo, I ended up with just what I wanted, 1,200 rounds. That had to be grand theft – ammo, they were probably \$10 a round. Maybe not, but I’ll bet I could get \$10 a round for them at any gun show in the country. You know, match ammo runs as much as \$5 a round. All those stripes made the bullets look like candy canes. Although there are 3 Raufoss rounds, the Mk 211 MP is the NM140. All three rounds have the same weight and ballistic performance. Therefore they can be linked together with no adverse effect on the ballistics. Furthermore the rounds can be delivered in the extremely accurate Grade A configuration, making each an excellent choice as a sniper round. The ammo is rated at 915m/s or 3,002f/s.

Back on 10/31/06 Senator John Kerry said if you didn’t do well in school, you ended up in Iraq. Boy did I write him a nasty. I explained that using his standards, my son deserved 2 Purple Hearts but refused to accept them because he was a man. I went on to suggest that he owed every man and woman in uniform an apology.

And no. I didn't write Dubya a letter. At the time I assumed the John Warner Bill was intended to deal with things like Katrina. It was only later when I thought about it that I got nervous. I started my research and came up with a package that stripped us of most of our rights under the Bill of Rights and other Amendments. Although the USA PATRIOT Act II never passed Congress, much of it was later added to must pass pieces of legislation. It was extreme, no doubt an overreaction to the times when it was first proposed. We got lucky; Congress repealed the offensive provisions with the 2008 Defense Appropriations Act.

I was prepared to give President Bush the benefit of the doubt and doubted he would abuse the power given him in the Warner Bill. Many of the provisions had sunset clauses, but given a Democrat in the White House and Democratic control of Congress they easily slipped an amendment to the Bill past everyone including the news media. I only found out when I was reading another Bill researching a story. It just began to add up to the unimaginable.

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We interrupt this program with an Emergency Action System Message. Please stay tuned for a message from the National Command Authority...

My fellow Americans,

Within the past hour, a nuclear weapon was ground burst in New York City. At this time, we have no idea whether more weapons have been placed in large cities. For that reason I am declaring a Major Public Emergency. Some units of the military and the National Guard will be sent to New York to deal with the emergency and others may be called if bombings occur in other cities. Please stay tuned to your local radio station for further announcements.

There was a flash of light to the southwest.

“What the hell was that?”

“You saw it too?”

“A blind man would have seen it, what was it?”

“An explosion?”

“Obviously, but where?”

“It had to be a long ways off. Oh, there's another one.”

“That was further west, but not by much. I think those were nuclear weapons. The first one might have been Dallas and maybe the second one DFW or Ft. Worth. What direction is the wind coming from?”

“It’s out of the northwest.”

“I’ll go move the wood pile and you keep an eye on TV. If it was a nuclear weapon, we’ll get another EAS message.”

It occurred to me that this was probably a terrorist attack, Broom Hillary wouldn’t need to explode more weapons she’d already declared a Major Public Emergency. She’d probably be saving weapons to use them on whoever was behind this. It had to be those towelheads. When I started the story, I called them ragheads, a reader corrected me. He was in Desert Storm, so he should know. *A rose by any other name is...* you know the rest.

One minute I was wondering what Hillary would dream up to declare herself Queen and the next moment some camel jockeys saved her the trouble. Did you see how fast she declared a Major Public Emergency? I doubt she even knew how big the weapon was. It took us several days to determine how big the North Korean blast had been. She said a ground burst, right? I hope they didn’t set it off in Times Square; I like to watch the ball drop on New Year’s Eve.

After I moved the platform and opened the shelter, I got my Loaded, pistol and Tac-Force vest. I grabbed the CD V-715 and headed back upstairs. Unlike the TV show Jericho, we wouldn’t be getting fallout 2 hours after the blast, even if the wind was in the right direction, which it wasn’t.

I put the battery in the survey meter and turned it to the lowest setting. The ones that Shane Connor includes in the package are well used, but currently certified. Sharon complained that her NukAlert occasionally whistled; according to the instructions, it chirped when radiation was present. I only had 12 CD V-742 dosimeters, enough for Damon, Derek, Aaron and me with spares for any of the women who venture from the shelter once it was buttoned up. That wouldn’t happen unless either the CD V-715 or CD V-717 indicated radiation.

I told Sharon to keep listening to the TV and if any of the kids called, tell them to get to our place ASAP. I went back to the shelter and put the battery in the dosimeter charger, charged all dozen dosimeters and returned upstairs.

“Here clip this on, just in case. Maybe you should run into Paris and get Lorrie and Jeffrey. Joshua should be at Lorrie’s. If he’s not, stop by school and pick him up. I’ll stay by the phone and let you know if any of the kids call.”

“They won’t call.”

“Why not?”

“The phones are dead.”

“What about the cell phone?”

“I couldn’t get a tower.”

“Crap, the CB will reach that far, but I’m afraid we might get an EMP.”

“A who?”

“A what. An Electro Magnetic Pulse. If it were terrorists, all of the weapons would have been ground bursts unless they took one up in an airplane. If it wasn’t terrorists, the enemy could explode a large nuclear weapon at very high altitude and take out most electronic devices in the entire county. That hasn’t happened yet because the TV still works. Maybe a surge took the phones out, but if it did, they should be restored shortly. We still have lights and I didn’t hear the generator running when I was in the shelter.”

“Did you check? That room is almost totally sound proofed.”

“I didn’t; do you want me to check?”

“Please.”

I went back to the shelter and checked; the generator was silent. I checked the automatic transfer switch and manually started the generator. It started right up and the battery had a full charge. After 15 minutes, I shut it down and returned upstairs.

“The generator is fine and I warmed it up so if we lose power, it should kick right in.”

“The phones are back. I called Lorrie and all of the kids are at her house. I’m leaving now to pick them up.”

“Take your Browning and don’t forget your NukAlert. Anything else?”

“The EAS made a second broadcast while you were fooling around in the shelter. One weapon was detonated at Love Field and the second at DFW. The one at DFW was an air burst and they suspect it was in an aircraft.”

“Were there any other weapons detonated?”

“Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. They said to stay turned for more announcements.”

“I’d better put it on Fox; I want to know what is really happening. It’s a shame O’Reilly isn’t on this time of the day. I’ll probably get Shep Smith and have to listen to his trying to make it sound worse than it is.”

Fox news wasn’t broadcasting; I forget that Studio B was in New York City. I ended up on Headline News. It wasn’t quite as bad as CNN, in relative terms. This was a full-fledged terrorist attack, 8 cities had been struck, some with multiple weapons. I guess that explained Dallas. DFW is one of the major airports in the US, maybe not as important as Kennedy, O’Hare, Atlanta, Denver or LAX, but important.

I started putting pushpins in a map of the US. Paris isn’t Jericho, but they got some things right on the TV show. That said, Denver is about 155 miles west of the Kansas state line. If the radiation arrived in 2 hours, it was going about 80mph. Can you even see a mushroom cloud from 155 miles? Maybe, Denver is uphill from Kansas. They should have gotten one of our writers as a technical adviser.

She said Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Add New York and Dallas to that list. Wait, that’s only 6 cities. I marked the 6 I knew about and waited for them to repeat the list. Detroit doesn’t make a bit of sense, the population is significantly Muslim. Not! In Detroit and the Metro area, there is a large Assyrian/Chaldean population and the country’s largest concentration of Arab Americans resides in Dearborn. I checked... 30% of the population is Muslim.

The other two cities turned out to be Denver and Seattle. I’d never set off a nuke in Seattle. It’s near the Cascadian Subduction zone and that’s responsible for the Cascade Range, some of which rumbles from time to time. No worries, Mt. St. Helens is well south of Seattle.

“Did you get the kids?”

“And Lorrie, yes. What now?”

“I push pushpins in this map, it show the 8 cities they hit. The only place I put 2 pins was Dallas, I don’t know about the rest. Did you’re NukAlert chirp?”

“No more than normal.”

“The little paper said, occasional chirps, even a few minutes of single chirps, should not be cause for concern. Apparently it’s sensitive to rapid temperature changes and static electricity.”

“Are you getting a reading on that Geiger Counter?”

“It’s not a Geiger Counter and no, no reading. None of the kids have called. Mary is probably delivering kids home. I would have thought that Damon and Derek would have been here by now.”

“Derek is probably waiting for Mary or went home to get their things. Damon is pulling in now.”

In case you missed it, we weren't northeast of Paris, but southwest, a little way off Highway 19/24. Just far enough from the highway we shouldn't attract attention. Derek and Mary finally arrived about one hour later. We talked it over and decided to wait until the radiation started to fall before we entered the shelter. Beats getting blasted into a mine.

I suppose that I should point out that my preparations were more focused on fighting the BATFE than on things like a flu outbreak or poison gas. My thinking was we could stay in the shelter and be isolated from bacterial agents and poison gas. Besides, a good gas mask cost around \$400, more or less. We did have Tamiflu, in case of H5N1, but some suggest that might not be the best choice. Well, any port in a storm.

“Have you been mobilized?”

“Haven't heard an announcement on the radio, Dad. I don't plan on reporting unless they call us up. Don't worry about it, we're a Maintenance unit. They use Infantry units to maintain order.”

“Did you hear that Madam President declared a Major Public Emergency?”

“Yeah, but from the look of your map, she was justified.”

“Only time will tell, Derek. The provisions of the law require her to notify Congress every 14 days as long as the declaration is in effect. Well, they didn't hit Washington so maybe she can do that. Hmm, why didn't they hit Washington? Now, if I were behind an attack like this, Washington would be my first target. A couple of bombs would kill so many politicians and reporters the country could return to normal.”

“This country will never go back to what you call normal, Dad. You remind me of Ronnie Millsap and his song, *Lost in the Fifties Tonight*.”

“Ronnie Millsap is an advanced class ham radio operator. His call sign is WB4KCG and he lives in Nashville. Not long after the song came out, somebody made a joke claiming he was checking his wallet. I liked the 50s; it was a far simpler time. People moved at a steady pace. It's not like today where everyone is running around like a chicken with its head cutoff. It wasn't perfect, far from it, but most of the time you had time to correct a mistake before it affected hundreds of people. You could actually go to an emergency room and get treated the same day they took you in. I had been transported to the ER twice when we lived in Palmdale but only once was justified. You do remember the ABC rule right?”

“Airway, breathing, circulation?”

“Right. If your brain doesn’t get oxygen in 4 minutes, you’ll probably die.”

“Is that is what is wrong with you?”

“Basically, yes. Do whatever you have to do to avoid getting diabetes. If you get it, it may shrink those little blood vessels in your brain and the red corpuscles can’t get through to feed oxygen to your brain. Once the brain goes, you turn into a survivalist.”

“I didn’t know you were deprived at oxygen at your birth.”

“Listen kid, you aren’t going to get through this without my help. Even with my help, we may not make it, that’s going to depend on what the country does next.”

“Dad, the military is on full alert. They probably have been since the first bomb went off. Did she say anything about retaliation?”

“Not in her statement. I don’t think Hillary would retaliate if she knew who was responsible for the bombs.”

“At least she didn’t appoint Les Aspin. Bill finally had to appoint a Republican, William Cohen, as SecDef.”

“You don’t like any President, do you?”

“Not since Gerald Ford. Reagan was ok until he fired the PATCO strikers. Bush 1 did pretty good, but stopped too soon. Clinton couldn’t afford a motel room and Bush 2 didn’t read all the bills he signed. To top it off, Hillary takes ugly pills. She’ll probably listen to Generals like Casey and we’ll have tanks in the main street of Paris.”

“Not likely, we don’t have that many tanks. I’m not sure we have enough vehicles in the entire military to put one vehicle in every city.”

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The term inalienable rights (or unalienable rights) refers to a set of human rights that are said to be absolute, not awarded by human power, not transferable to another power, and incapable of repudiation. Several different sets of inalienable rights have been suggested by philosophers and politicians. Inalienable rights are defined as natural rights, but natural rights are not required by definition to be inalienable.

The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, famously asserts:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liber-

ty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men.

As a lawyer, future Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase argued before the Supreme Court in the case of John Van Zandt, who had been charged with violating the Fugitive Slave Act, that:

The law of the Creator, which invests every human being with an inalienable title to freedom, cannot be repealed by any interior law which asserts that man is property.

Most authors assert that there is no such thing as an inalienable or natural right.

◦

“Not even counting the M2s and M3s?”

“Not even counting the HMMWVs.”

“You think we won’t have troops in Paris?”

“They may drive through on their way to Dallas, but Paris is really off the beaten path. Besides, that’s why the Interstate Highway System was created, to facilitate movement of troops.”

“I know, kid, I remember when Ike created it. I liked Ike, until he got elected. It went downhill from there.”

“What was wrong with Eisenhower?”

“I can’t remember. After Eisenhower left office his reputation declined, and he was seen as having been a “do-nothing” President. This was partly because of the contrast between Eisenhower and his young activist successor, JFK, but also because of his reluctance to support the civil rights movement to the degree that more liberal individuals would have preferred or to stop McCarthyism, even though he opposed McCarthy’s tactics and claims. Such omissions were held against him during the liberal climate of the 1960s and 1970s. Since that time, however, Eisenhower’s reputation has risen because of his non-partisan nature, his wartime leadership, his action in Arkansas, his being the last President to balance the budget (before the second Bill Clinton term), and an increasing appreciation of how difficult it is today to maintain a prolonged peace. In recent surveys of historians, Eisenhower often is ranked in the top 10 among all US Presidents. Because of legal issues related to holding a military rank while in a civilian office, Eisenhower resigned his permanent commission as General of the Army before entering the office of President of the United States. Upon completion of his Presidential term, his commission on the retired list was reactivated and Eisenhower again was commissioned a five-star general in the United States Army.”

Throughout his presidency, Eisenhower preached a doctrine of Dynamic Conservatism. Although he maintained a conservative economic policy, he continued all the major New Deal programs still in operation, especially Social Security. He expanded its programs and rolled them into a new cabinet level agency, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, while extending benefits to an additional 10,000,000 million more workers. His cabinet, consisting of several corporate executives and one labor leader, was dubbed by one journalist, "Eight millionaires and a plumber." Eisenhower was extremely popular, winning his second term with 457 of the 530 votes in the Electoral College, and 57.6% of the popular vote."

"Did you vote for him?"

"I was only 13 years old when he won his second term. In 1961, Eisenhower gave his final televised speech from the Oval office. In his farewell speech to the nation, Eisenhower raised the issue of the Cold War and the role of the US armed forces. He described the Cold War saying: *We face a hostile ideology global in scope, atheistic in character, ruthless in purpose and insidious in method...* and warned about what he saw as unjustified government spending proposals and continued with a warning that *we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex... Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.*"

"Who was the first Presidential Candidate you voted for?"

"Barry Goldwater."

"Who?"

"Barry Goldwater, the guy that ran against LBJ. He lost to President Johnson by one of the largest margins in the history of US Presidential elections. Goldwater disliked then-Senate Majority Leader LBJ of Texas (who he said *used every dirty trick in the bag*), and Nixon of California, whom he later called *the most dishonest individual I have ever met in my life*. Goldwater showed a caustic wit that cost him popularity in the Republican Party. Goldwater did his best to counter the Johnson attacks, criticizing the Johnson administration for its perceived ethical lapses, and stating in a commercial that *...we, as a nation, are not far from the kind of moral decay that has brought on the fall of other nations and people...I say it is time to put conscience back in government. And by good example, put it back in all walks of American life.*"

"Did you ever vote for a Democrat?"

"Once, in a moment of weakness. But never for any important office."

"Gary, the Geiger Counter is clicking."

“What time is it?”

“1am.”

“Where is everybody?”

“They are sleeping in the shelter.”

“You two yard birds help and we’ll get the freezer to the shelter. There’s an appliance caddy in the shed.”

*Take the children and yourself
And hide out in the cellar
By now the fighting will be close at hand
Don't believe the church and state
And everything they tell you
Believe in me, I'm with the high command
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?*

I sometimes wonder what historians will say about our civilization. There are several theories as to what caused the demise of the Moche civilization. Studies of ice cores drilled from glaciers in the Andes reveal climatic catastrophe between 563 to 594 AD, possibly a super El Niño, that resulted in 30 years of unrelenting rain and flooding followed by 30 years of drought. This catastrophe would have disrupted the Moche way of life and shattered their faith in their religion, which had promised stable weather through sacrifices. Recent evidence uncovered by American Archeologist Tom Dillehay has shown that Moche civilization survived beyond 650 AD, and later settlements are characterized by fortifications and defensive works. Finding no evidence of foreign invasion, this suggests that a period of unrest followed the climatic changes, as the Moche civilization tore itself apart and fought over the remaining resources.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

The reason I include that in my stories is primarily because it’s true. In fact, I have about a dozen quotes that succinctly tell you the facts of life, and death. The Founding Fathers wanted republicanism that would guarantee liberty, and most were afraid that a democracy (which at this time meant direct democracy) would allow the voters at any time to trample rights and liberties. That is, they saw democracy as mob rule that could be shaped on the spot by a demagogue. Therefore they devised a written Constitution which could only be amended by a supermajority, preserved competing sovereignties in the constituent states, gave the control of the upper house (Senate) to the states, and created an Electoral College comprising a small number of elites to select the president. They set up a House of Representatives to represent the people. In practice the Electoral College soon gave way to control by political parties during the First Party System. Not expected by the founders was the emergence of the Supreme Court under John Marshall as the final arbiter of the Constitution and indeed of all political rules. In 1776

most states required property ownership to vote, but most citizens owned farms in the 90% rural nation, so it was not a severe restriction, and was dropped state by state in the early 19th century.

What I'm talking about is a form of government, not a political party. These days, we use Republic and Democracy nearly interchangeably. A person can do that, if they are explicit in defining our country as a Representative Republic and specifically, a Constitutional Representative Republic. The second oldest Constitution in the World is that of Poland. In representative democracies that are constitutional monarchies, like the United Kingdom, the monarch may be regarded as the head of state but the prime minister, whose power derives directly or indirectly from elections, is head of government.

We weren't really a global power until WW I. America's policy of insisting on neutral rights while also trying to broker a peace resulted in tensions with both Berlin and London. When a German U-boat sank the Lusitania in 1915, a large passenger liner with 128 Americans aboard, Wilson vowed "America was too proud to fight," and demanded an end to attacks on passenger ships. Germany complied. Wilson tried to mediate a compromise settlement; yet no compromise was discovered. Wilson also repeatedly warned that America would not tolerate unrestricted submarine warfare because it violated America's rights. Wilson was under great pressure from former president Teddy Roosevelt, who denounced German "piracy" and Wilson's cowardice.

In January 1917 the Germans announced they would resume unrestricted submarine warfare. Berlin's proposal to Mexico to join the war as Germany's ally against the US was exposed in February, angering American opinion. After German submarines attacked several American merchant ships, sinking three, Wilson requested that Congress declare war on Germany, which it did on 6Apr17. The House approved the war resolution 373-50, the Senate 82-6, with opposition coming especially from German American districts such as Wisconsin. The US declared war on Austria-Hungary in December 1917.

After the first war, we tried isolationism again. Our support of Britain during WW II took the form of Lend-Lease. This program was a decisive step away from American isolationism and towards international involvement since the end of WW I. In sharp contrast to the American loans to the Allies in World War I, there were no provisions for postwar repayments. Franklin Roosevelt, eager to assure public consent for this controversial plan, explained to the public and the press that his plan was comparable to one neighbor's lending another a garden hose to put out a fire in his home. "What do I do in such a crisis?" the President asked at a press conference. "I don't say... 'Neighbor, my garden hose cost me \$15; you have to pay me \$15 for it.' ...I don't want \$15 – I want my garden hose back after the fire is over."

WW II completely ended US isolationism. I sometimes wish we'd thrown the UN out and become Isolationist again. We can't because we live in a nuclear world. The sign at the end of Jericho said Rogue River 30-some miles. There is only one town named Rogue

River in the US and it's in Oregon. It covers 1 square mile and has a population of about 2,000.

It had taken the radiation several hours to get to Paris. First the wind shifted from the west and then from the southwest. About 9 hours later, 1am, Sharon noticed the CD V-717 needle registering. She'd left the NukAlert on the table in the shelter. It was my fault the freezer wasn't in the shelter already, I was mostly flapping my jaw and lost track of the time. It didn't really matter, we weren't getting much radiation to begin with and we changed clothes and took quick showers. We got the Andair VA-150 running through the filters. We hadn't lost electricity yet, surprising me. The power came from a local co-operative, maybe that's why.

The Paris Police Department had about 50 officers and another 20 or so reserves. They had ample time to move everyone to an appropriate shelter. I hadn't seen the Sheriff's Department, but they'd seen the basement going in. In fact, just before the contractor capped it, a Deputy stopped by to visit. He said it was strange to have a basement so deep. I told him it was a bomb shelter and would have risers to support our double wide and the space filled in with 8' dirt. He asked about the protection factor and I told him 10 to the 6th power. For all I know, he reported that to the Lamar County Sheriff.

He was good, before he left he knew where we were from, Iowa via Kalifornia, who our kids were and even how we'd managed to end up in Paris. He also pointed out, that since we were new to Texas, that Texas didn't permit open carry. If we wanted to carry, we needed a CCW, but Texas was a shall issue state. We all had CCWs and knew the list of places where you couldn't carry a gun. Paris is about the size Palmdale was when we moved there in '87, or perhaps a little smaller.

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The radiation finally peaked at 875R. My Seven Ten Rule calculator said 100 days in the shelter from the peak to get to 100mR. We weren't short of anything including pets. Derek was stuck with us, he didn't have MOPP gear. No one else showed up requesting admittance, another advantage of our location. We had time to eat, sleep, sharpen knives, service the generators, and plan our exit strategy.

"When it's down to 100mR, we can leave and check things out, boys. We're going to lose power soon, as soon as the Coop employees have to shelter. We can run the generator on our present fuel supply for months. Since I'm the oldest, I think I should go top side and check things out. We'll keep in touch with the CB and I'll look for hot spots. You can come up and we'll use the fire pump to hose down the radiation and wash it away from the house and buildings."

"Chill out Dad, we still have 29 days to go."

"Yeah but, what will we find when we get top side?"

“Sunshine, fresh air and room to move around. You’re paranoid.”

“*Just because you’re paranoid, doesn’t mean they aren’t out to get you.* Don’t say anything, not one word. We just had a Major Public Emergency. Hillary can issue an Executive Order that empowers the government to seize all firearms for the duration. If they get away with that, it follows that the government will need to protect the people from MZBs. If we let them get their foot in the door, they end up owing the house.”

“Do you know what a cliché is?”

“Yeah why?”

“You just used about 4 of them.”

“Bull. I’ve got 15 rifle magazines sitting in some dead letter office, rusting. Somebody read my mail. I’m telling you, that isn’t right. People ship all kinds of legal and illegal drugs in the mail every day and those packages don’t get intercepted. But no, you spend \$1,700 plus on a rifle and you can’t get a few magazines. The government is not your friend. That’s what I’ve been trying to tell you since we moved to Texas.”

“Are you sure we can’t leave yet?”

“The radiation level is 150mR, you can go out, but you can’t stay. Check that CD V-717 and see if I’m right about the radiation.”

“The battery is dead.”

“Put in a new one, we have 10 dozen.”

I was wrong, the radiation level was 135mR so we opened the blast door and the 3 of us started up the ramp. We open the road plate cover, unlocked the wood pile and slid it aside. It was a beautiful Texas day. The door was standing open, someone had been in the house.

“Careful, someone could be in there.”

Damon and I let Derek go in first; he probably had the best reaction time. We followed his lead and checked out the whole house. Someone had been there, the door to the refrigerator was standing open, cupboard doors were open and some food on the floor, some missing.

“There’s nobody here Dad.”

“I see. Let’s clean up the mess and throw the spoiled food away. I wouldn’t want Sharon to see her kitchen looking like this.”

Silent Running – Chapter 8

*When the truth is found to be lies
and all the joys within you dies
don't you want somebody to love
don't you need somebody to love
wouldn't you love somebody to love
you better find somebody to love*

*When the garden flowers baby are dead yes
and your mind is full of red
don't you want somebody to love
don't you need somebody to love
wouldn't you love somebody to love
you better find somebody to love*

*your eyes, I say your eyes may look like his
but in your head baby I'm afraid you don't know where it is
don't you want somebody to love
don't you need somebody to love
wouldn't you love somebody to love
you better find somebody to love*

*tears are running ah running down your breast
and your friends baby they treat you like a guest
don't you want somebody to love
don't you need somebody to love
wouldn't you love somebody to love
you better find somebody to love*

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That was from another protest group, Jefferson Airplane. It was a big hit for Grace Slick. They performed the song on The Ed Sullivan Show. If you've seen the movie *Apollo 13*, the song was playing in the background when Lovell told his wife they were now the primary crew on Apollo 13.

At the Presidio, the Army base in San Francisco, a female MP was conducting her rounds when she came across the officer's club and the door had been forced open. She went to investigate and was shot. The individuals who broke in got into their car and drove and what followed was high speed chase that got both the Army MPs and the San Francisco police involved, which ended badly for both. Jay Austin, a San Francisco Police detective, is sent to investigate and he is met by Lt. Colonel Caldwell, who was his commanding officer, when he was an MP on the Presidio. It seems that Austin tried to arrest an Army officer but didn't follow procedures and Caldwell didn't support him.

And the murdered MP was Austin's partner. A preliminary investigation casts suspicion on the officer Austin tried to arrest. When Caldwell refuses to let Austin press him, Austin tries to go after him on his own but is killed. And Caldwell is not pleased cause, has he forgotten that there was another man with him and why did they do all that? Austin agrees to follow Caldwell's lead.

Beau, John, and Digby Geste are three inseparable, adventurous brothers who have been adopted into the wealthy household of Lady Brandon. When money in the upper-crust household grows tight, Lady Brandon is forced to sell her most treasured jewel the mighty "Blue Water" sapphire. The household gets it out for one final look, the lights go out and it vanishes stolen by one of the brothers, no doubt. That night, Beau, Digby, and John each "confess" and slip out, John leaving behind Isabel, whom he loves. They all join the Foreign Legion, and Beau and Digby are split from John and put under the command of the ruthless and sadistic Sergeant Markoff. Things begin to get hairy as the rest of the Legionnaires plot a mutiny against Markoff, in the midst of an attack by Arab hordes.

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The attorney's record claims:

- Bringing suit against the software giant Microsoft for violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act.
- Prosecution resulting in the conviction of 21 of the Montana Freeman after an 81 day armed standoff.
- Capture and conviction of the Unabomber.
- Capture and conviction of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols for the Oklahoma City bombing.
- Capture and conviction resulting in life-sentences of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and 4 conspirators for the World trade center bombing.
- Solving the Centennial Olympic Park bombing and other bombings committed by Eric Rudolph.
- Capture and conviction of Mir Aimal Kasi for the CIA headquarters shootings.

They left off a couple, but the attorney only gets credit for one of them:

- Ruby Ridge
- Waco

Ruby Ridge predated her term in office. Janet Reno has Parkinson's Disease and is basically retired. After her tenure as Attorney General and her unsuccessful gubernatorial election bid (Florida), Reno tours the country giving speeches on topics relating to the criminal justice system. For example, on March 31, 2006, she spoke at a criminology conference held at the University of Pennsylvania. At this conference, she stated that she believes that the education system in this country needs to be improved, as there is a link between the quality of education and the crime rate. She also believes that too

much money has been diverted away from the juvenile court system and believes that the government should find some way to make the juvenile courts work effectively so as to prevent problems in troubled children and adolescents before these problems are exacerbated by the time these adolescents reach adulthood.

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“Didn’t you lock the door?”

“I guess not, I was trying to hurry. We never keep much in the pantry anyway, they didn’t get much. We have everything they took in the shelter, it won’t take long to resupply.”

“How long can we stay up here?”

“Maybe 3-4 hours. Let’s get the pump running and wash down any radiation left over. If we can get a vehicle running, maybe we should go into town and see how they made out. When you’re done cleaning up, I go tell Sharon they can come out for a couple of hours.”

“Someone broke into the house.”

“What did they take?”

“Just a little food. They left the refrigerator door open, the boys cleaned out the spoiled food. You’ll have to make a list of things that you need to resupply the pantry. We going to finish washing down any leftover radiation and make a quick run into town if we can any of the vehicles started. I guess I’d better take that emergency gadget in case the batteries are dead.”

“Will they start?”

“We didn’t get EMP here as far as I know. Some people must be out and about, the generator shut down so the REA is operating. You’d better take some firearms so you can protect yourselves while we’re gone.”

We jumped the Daewoo’s battery and piled into the SUV after we finished washing down the house and buildings. I checked my CD V-742 and it was barely registering. I removed the lock and chain from the farm tank and topped off the tank before we left. Ten minutes later, we were sitting at a police roadblock erected to block Highway 19/24.

“Can I help you?”

“I don’t know officer, can you? We just spent 70 some days in a shelter and decided that since the lights were back on we’d better come to town and check on everyone. We’re reading about 135mR down at our place, is it the same here?”

"It a little lower, but not all that much. We're running 4 hour shifts and sheltering afterwards. What did you need?"

"We need to go to the Sheriff's office and report a break in."

"What was taken?"

"Only a little food."

"Do you have more?"

"Yes, why?"

"You can file a report, but I doubt the Sheriff's office will be able to investigate. We had quite a few families bug out and some of them didn't have much in the way of preps. You aren't the first people coming to Paris to report a break in."

"How's the food holding out?"

"It's mostly gone. We got the electricity back up. If you want to come into town, you'll have to check your guns."

"I guess we know what we needed to know officer. We'll return home and continue to shelter until the radiation level is below 100mR."

"Can I get your names? The county is trying to put together a list of survivors."

We gave him everyone's names and our address. We asked when SBC would have the phones back up. He said they were waiting on a replacement switching array and he didn't know how long it would take to find one.

"Let's go home, Damon. We can't stay out for more than 18 hours at this radiation level and we probably picked up a little washing down the buildings."

"Can we at least stay out long enough to cook something on the grill? I've got a bad case of cabin fever."

"As long as you don't get more than 2.5R exposure, it's ok. Everyone has taken their KIO₃. However, I think we'd better limit our exposure to about half of that, 1.25R."

"How long is that?"

"About 10 hours."

We had hamburger patties, hot dogs and buns in the freezer we'd taken to the shelter. By the time we'd gotten home, Sharon and the girls had replaced the stolen food and were almost done cleaning the house. The boys got the meat and buns and Sharon started macaroni for a quick salad. We didn't have all the ingredients for a deluxe macaroni salad, but that didn't matter we just wanted to stay out of the shelter as long as possible.

That policeman hadn't said anything about the military and we didn't see any military vehicles in Paris. We hadn't been all the way into town, so we couldn't be sure if they were there or not. According to ham radio, the Governor of Texas had declared the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area a disaster area. That's a large area, almost 9,000mi². The cities of Dallas and Fort Worth are the anchor cities of the Metroplex. Dallas and its suburbs have one of the highest concentrations of corporate headquarters in the United States. As such, one of the largest industries in the Dallas area is conducting business.

From that point on, we were topside part of each day. We put the dosimeters on the kids and watched their exposure. As soon as it looked like they had ~1.25R, they were sent to the shelter. The scale on the CD V-742 goes from 0-200R, we were mostly guessing. However, over a 4 day period, we could read 5R. If anything, we erred on the low side, the kids were too young to need to worry about cancer. But then, they were too young to worry about MBZs and federal troops, too.

"I guess I should have built a fence better than the one I did. Four stands of barbed wire won't keep anyone out. If it would, we wouldn't have had the break in."

"We checked everyone's homes or apartments and emptied the refrigerators. When are you going to let us go home?"

"When the radiation level is at or below 104mR. Until then, you can't spend 24 hours above the ground. Like I told you in the beginning, that won't happen until 100 days pass."

"I'm going to have to borrow some groceries, Dad; I don't have much food in the house."

"Damon, Derek probably needs some too. I know for a fact that Amy doesn't have enough food for more than 3-4 days and Lorrie is probably short too. Get with Sharon and work something out. Take plenty of potatoes, we must have 3 tons left."

"Do you have what we eat?"

"We do if you eat what we like. The first rule in accumulating preparedness supplies is to only buy and store what you eat. My 3 favorite foods are pepper steak with rice, chili with rice and goulash. Sharon likes steaks, chicken, pork chops and pork steak. We have some ham and a few roasts, beef and pork. I don't know how many roasts we have left, but we'll share. I'll bet you don't have seeds or fertilizer either, right?"

“I don’t.”

“Me either. I don’t even have a can of spare gas.”

“For now, you can pull 2 drums from the shelter and share that with Amy. I suggest you think about getting bicycles.”

◦

The Battle of Normandy cost 29,000 American, 11,000 United Kingdom and 5,000 Canadian deaths and 106,000 American, 54,000 United Kingdom and 13,000 Canadian wounded or missing. There were ~12,200 French Civilian dead and missing. Add to that, 200,000 German dead, wounded or missing and another 200,000 surrendered.

Just based on the volume of MREs available on E-Bay, I’d be willing to venture a guess that people didn’t much care for them. Buying those MREs off the net would have been a mistake, you had no idea how they’d been handled since they’d been passed out. Back a number of years ago when Derek was training at Ft. Irwin, I went to see him. He mentioned that they were testing MREs that had reached their 5-year shelf life. More than 50% of them were unfit to eat. If you buy new, factory fresh, MREs and properly store them, they could last 5 years and beyond. If you buy new, factory fresh, beans and rice, they will last 5 generations if properly stored – they’ve recovered food and wine from the Pyramids.

We loaded half of all our magazines, just in case. Unless this somehow escalated into a world war, our enemy could and would be our own government. This was the first real opportunity that the Democrat Party had to show up the Bush Administration since Hurricane Katrina. While the goal might be to make Bush look like a fool, some things are easier said than done. Especially when you’re trying to deal with multiple nuclear weapons detonated in at least 8 cities. Hey, maybe they could get Michael D. Brown to help; I heard he was out of work.

◦

“Ok, 88mR, everyone can go out and stay out. Did you give Sharon your lists of food you’re going to need?”

“She said she’d take care of it Dad. What now?”

“I think I’ll put on a warm coat, get my rifle, go sit on the deck and wait for the Army to show up.”

“Oh right,” Damon laughed. “You’ll sit out there until you catch cold and end up in the hospital again. Have you always been paranoid?”

“Only since I was 5 years old, I can’t remember much before that. Not to change the subject, but you’d better hope this doesn’t end up like the TV series, Jericho. CBS makes all the survivalists in that look like the bad guys. If anyone actually believed that, we’re going to be on the top of the list that the government will be looking for. We’re not going to have to wait long, look.”

A USGI HMMWV was sitting at the gate. A gunner was manning a M2HB and a soldier out of the back seat was trying to open the gate. It was held shut by a case harden chain and a lock that the manufacturer claim couldn’t be broken. Right, a sledge hammer or a cutting torch could defeat that lock and one round from that Ma Deuce would totally destroy it.

“Derek, please go and talk to them. Show them your military ID card, maybe they’ll back off.”

Meanwhile, I slid open a window and took a bead on the nose of the gunner. I doubted the screen would even slow down the .308 caliber bullet. Derek had his military ID card in his hand and approached them slowly. The guy quit fooling with the lock and drew down on him with his M4. Aaron took the Loaded and set the red dot on that guy’s nose.

Derek handed the gate guy his ID card and stood there, hands raised. He slowly turned around making a full circle so the soldier could see there wasn’t a handgun stuck in Derek’s back waist band. Next, the soldier went to the right side of the HMMWV and handed the ID card to the front seat passenger. The guy that came out was a Sergeant. He walked up to Derek, handed back his ID card and Derek lowered his hands. They launched into a conversation with lots of hand waiving and an occasional raised voice. Eventually the Sergeant told his gunner to stand down. They left and Derek returned to the house.

“So, what did he say?”

“He said they were taking a census. I told him we’d already reported in to the Lamar County Sheriff’s office. He wanted to know if I’d been activated yet and I told him I hadn’t gotten the word. Then he wanted to know how many people were here. I started out by telling him 1 National Guardsman and 3 veterans, 1 Navy, 1 Air Force and 1 Army. He said they would check with the Sheriff and suggested I check with my unit to see if I’d been activated.”

“Did you get a Sitrep?”

“They were Texas National Guard. The Governor ordered a census of all the area in and around Dallas and all downwind communities. He said they were about half done with the outlying communities. He also said that most of the Units of the Texas National Guard have been activated to federal control, but to remain in Texas. The Governor also activated the Texas State Guard. There is an order that looters will be shot on sight.

He said there hadn't been much looting, so far. They're working to distribute fuel and food."

"What about Dallas?"

"Two bombs, but we already knew that. One was ground burst near Love Field and the other aloft near DFW International. No news there, we knew that. Unfortunately, I have to get to New Boston, in uniform, and see if our unit has been activated."

"Watch your six and keep your powder dry."

That's what I always told him when he headed off to active duty. The National Guard had changed the rules on 1Aug07 concerning overseas deployment from 24 months during a six year enlistment to not more than 24 months between overseas deployments. They hadn't changed the rules for domestic deployment, which I knew of. If he was activated, that would leave Damon, Mary and Me to keep an eye on things on the home front. It shouldn't be too bad; they all lived in Paris, which meant they'd have Police and Sheriff Protection.

"Gary, why do you have so many sniper rifles?"

"I like to hunt snipes?"

"Seriously. You started out with the Loaded M1A in Palmdale and fixed it up with the red dot sight. Next, you got the Super Match with a pretty fancy scope. Finally you got a Tac-50 with an even better scope. Tell the truth, you can hardly pick up the Tac-50."

"I can pick it up, but I need support to fire it. It doesn't really kick much more than a 12 gauge shotgun. I'll admit that putting the suppressor on it wasn't the best idea I ever had because it increased the recoil. On the other hand, it is an excellent flashhider. The suppressors on the other long weapons were added principally as flash suppressors first and sound suppressors second. I never did get the handgun I really wanted, it was too expensive."

"What handgun did you really want, you never said?"

"The H&K USP Tactical. They are overpriced and there's nothing wrong with my PT1911. I finally see what Derek was talking about when he said the only time he fired his weapon in Iraq was at the range."

"Do you think you could actually shoot someone?"

"I could shoot the first person, but after that I don't know. I've never shot anyone, so it's difficult to speculate how I'd react. You tell yourself that you could, but until it's tested, you never really know. It would be much harder shooting a soldier just doing his job

than it would be a gang banger. You know, Derek didn't really say if the Army was for us or against us."

"Would the gate stop them?"

"Not really. If they had rammed it hard with the Hummer, they'd have come right though. We need a castle, but we can't build one. I plan to put all of the good weapons in the shelter and put the log platform back in place. We'll keep the shotgun and SR-556 up here, if we have to lose any firearms, I'd rather lose those than the main battle rifles."

"Hand guns?"

"Only the Sterling. They'll go nuts looking for the guns on the 4473s, but if they get the shotgun and 5.56, they might buy my story that I sold the rest at gun shows."

"Not going to happen. You put all the guns in the shelter and we'll go find a pair of off the books rifles."

"I'll do it, but only leave them there if we can find either 5.56x45mm or 7.62x51mm caliber weapons."

"What's so special about those calibers?"

"The ammunition we have is mostly in those calibers, NATO 5.56 or 7.62."

"The shotgun isn't a semi-auto."

"If they get carried away seizing firearms, it won't matter what a gun is. They take the pump shotgun and the lever action .22. We might try to find a Remington model 700 or Winchester model 70 in 7.62 NATO. They are bolt action and may qualify as sniper rifles. I don't think we should get 5.56 bolt actions."

"Would we need to buy new scopes?"

"Probably, I wouldn't want to use the scopes we have because they're sighted in. We could get by with something cheaper than what we have. I don't know if we could find Swarovski scopes these days anyway. The main thing would be to get the rifles in the right caliber."

"And the only difference between your rifles and the rifles you want to get is the action?"

"That's right, my rifles are semi-auto."

"Will a bullet from a M1A kill you any deader than the same bullet from a Remington?"

"Nope. Now you understand why I think the gun laws are so stupid."

“Have they outlawed them yet?”

“Not that I know of. They look like military rifles because they’re based on the M14 we used in the late 50s and early 60s. That’s why my loaded had a muzzle brake and the Super Match had a National Match Flashhider. It doesn’t make any difference now with the suppressors, but in Kalifornia, both rifles would be illegal.”

“I wonder if Palmdale got any fallout from LA?”

“And I wonder if Ron and Linda managed to get out of Palmdale. Did you hear how many bombs went off in LA?”

“No, I didn’t. She told me that she didn’t know if they’d leave. Ron’s brother is in poor health and his wife isn’t much better off. She also said her father would probably out live her and her sister.”

“He’s not totally helpless, he bought the Kel-Tec and I got him 5 30-round magazines. He kept buying 50 round boxes of .223 from Wal-Mart so I figure he’s in good shape.”

“How much did he have?”

“Six boxes. He has several bolt action rifles and an assortment of handguns locked away in those guns safes he bought.”

“What did he think of your rifle?”

“He thought it was pretty heavy for someone in my shape to carry.”

“They’re back.”

“Who’s back?”

“The Army. You’d better go down to the gate and see what they want.”

“Take my rifle and cover me. All you have to do is put the red dot on the spot you want the bullet to hit. The safety is the small thing at the front of the trigger guard. Push it forward and the rifle is ready to go.”

“Help you?”

Silent Running – Chapter 9

*The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down
Of the big lake they called 'Gitche Gumee'
The lake, it is said, never gives up her dead
When the skies of November turn gloomy
With a load of iron ore twenty-six thousand tons more
Than the Edmund Fitzgerald weighed empty.
That good ship and true was a bone to be chewed
When the gales of November came early.*

*The ship was the pride of the American side
Coming back from some mill in Wisconsin
As the big freighters go, it was bigger than most
With a crew and good captain well-seasoned
Concluding some terms with a couple of steel firms
When they left fully loaded for Cleveland
And later that night when the ship's bell rang
Could it be the north wind they'd been feelin'?*

*The wind in the wires made a tattle-tale sound
And a wave broke over the railing
And every man knew, as the captain did too,
T'was the witch of November come stealin'.
The dawn came late and the breakfast had to wait
When the Gales of November came slashin'.
When afternoon came it was freezin' rain
In the face of a hurricane west wind.*

*When supertime came, the old cook came on deck sayin'.
Fellas, it's too rough to feed ya.
At Seven P.M. a main hatchway caved in, he said
Fellas, it's been good t'know ya
The captain wired in he had water comin' in
And the good ship and crew was in peril.
And later that night when his lights went outta sight
Came the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.*

*Does anyone know where the love of God goes
When the waves turn the minutes to hours?
The searches all say they'd have made Whitefish Bay
If they'd put fifteen more miles behind her.
They might have split up or they might have capsized;
May have broke deep and took water.
And all that remains is the faces and the names
Of the wives and the sons and the daughters.*

*Lake Huron rolls, Superior sings
In the rooms of her ice-water mansion.
Old Michigan steams like a young man's dreams;
The islands and bays are for sportsmen.
And farther below Lake Ontario
Takes in what Lake Erie can send her,
And the iron boats go as the mariners all know
With the Gales of November remembered.*

*In a musty old hall in Detroit they prayed,
In the Maritime Sailors' Cathedral.
The church bell chimed till it rang twenty-nine times
For each man on the Edmund Fitzgerald.
The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down
Of the big lake they call 'Gitche Gumee'.
Superior, they said, never gives up her dead
When the gales of November come early!*

The ship went down in Lake Superior on November 10, 1975 with 29 men on board. The bell was raised on July 4, 1995. Although the last vessel lost, and the largest, Fitzgerald is not alone on the bottom. The Great Lakes have a long history of nautical disasters; nearly 6,000 shipwrecks occurred between 1878 and 1898 alone, with about a quarter of those being listed as total losses. Some ships and crews simply vanished in storms.

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"We were here earlier."

"I was watching you from the house."

"Is your son still here?"

"The one you talked to?"

"Yes, the Staff Sergeant."

"Sorry, he went home to change into his uniform and drove over to New Boston."

"We checked and his unit isn't there, they've been deployed."

"When he doesn't find them, he'll either track them down or come back here. If you want to check back later, I'll be able to tell you more."

"Can we wait?"

“In your Hummer? Sure that’s fine with me.”

“How about in your house?”

“What, you want to search the place?”

“No, but we wouldn’t mind getting in out of the cold and having a cup of coffee.”

“Ok, but you’ll have to wait until I tell my wife it’s ok.”

“Why, is she covering you with a shotgun?”

“Not exactly. She’s looking through a Burris Red Dot sight right at you.”

“Uh, we can wait in the Hummer.”

“Just let me let her know. You can jump the gate, can’t you?”

“What do they want?”

“They came back to see Derek. I told him where he went and the Sergeant asked if they could wait inside. I told him they could, would you please make a pot of coffee and I’ll waive them in?”

“Are you sure?”

“No, but I already said they could come in so make the coffee, please.”

I took the rifle and waived to the Sergeant. I saw the gunner clear the Ma Deuce and grab his M-4. They hopped the gate and came up to the house.

“Is that the rifle?”

“Yes, are you familiar with the M1A?”

“We used M14s for drill a few times, but I’ve never fired one. Mind if I look at it?”

“Let me clear it.”

“That isn’t a USGI magazine, is it?”

“Chinese type 57. After McNamara ordered the M14 out of service, we sold the machinery to the Republic of China.”

“This is a nice rifle, is it the Standard model?”

"It's the Loaded model with an air-gauged medium weight match barrel, match sights and match trigger."

"Heavy, aren't they?"

"Try handling one when you're 66 years old."

"I might just do that, but that won't be for a while."

"Can you tell us anything more about what happened?"

"I guess it won't hurt. Terrorists detonated bombs in 8 major cities. Some cities, like Dallas, were hit by more than one weapon. I suppose you know about Dallas, right?"

"A ground burst at Love Field and an airborne weapon at DFW?"

"That's right. New York and Los Angeles were also hit by two weapons each. In New York, one went off in Times Square and the other near Central Park North. One bomb in LA was detonated near the harbors and the other near downtown. The military has been mobilized and most National Guard units activated. They couldn't go into the cities right away and I'm afraid without any warning, the casualties were very high."

"Any idea who was behind it?"

"I don't really know, but they're working on it. Tell me, if you had to guess, who would you choose?"

"Well, you said 8 cities and I counted 11 weapons. They probably weren't suitcase nukes, that wouldn't have caused much damage. Let's say they were in the 15-20kT range, that would suggest..."

"Some of them were closer to 1mT. Those had to be hydrogen bombs."

"How many big ones?"

"Five. The cities hit by single weapons were larger bombs. The only atom bombs were the ones used in Dallas. The weapons used in New York and LA were about 500kT so they were probably fusion weapons."

"That should narrow it down, how many countries have hydrogen bombs?"

"Confirmed, tested fusion weapons? Five: the US, Russia, UK, France and China."

"That narrows it down; the weapons had to come from either China or Russia."

“That’s the current thinking, although Russia had 10 times more weapons than China. They may have some weapons unaccounted for besides those suitcase bombs.”

“It that fact or speculation?”

“A little of both. However, the scuttlebutt is that any large weapons that were sold to terrorists didn’t come from the Russian government. They could have come from other military officials or even the Russian Mafia.”

“But we don’t really know, do we?”

“As I told you, they’re working on it.”

“So why are you back here looking for my boy?”

“We pulled his records and he’s a qualified Abrams tank commander. We have more vehicles than crews. We were ordered to contact him and see if he wanted to transfer to a Cavalry unit.”

“I doubt you’d have to twist his arm. More coffee?”

“Please. The bathroom?”

“Oh, down the hall, next to last door on the right.”

“You fellas want something to eat?” Sharon asked. “It would take less than 30 minutes to put together a pot of goulash.”

“Sure, sounds good.”

“So, Sergeant, what the deal with the declaration of a major public emergency and the military being activated as law enforcement?”

“So far, we only have orders dealing with looters.”

“No orders to seize guns and put people in camps?”

“Some are going to camps, but primarily because they don’t have the embedded ID chips. They’re being held until they can be identified and released unless they’re a multiple offender. We haven’t received any orders to seize weapons. I’m not sure many in the military would go along with that, in a National Emergency everyone in the country is a member of the militia. Are you talking about the Defense Appropriations Act of 2007?”

“Yeah, that lets Hillary suspend Posse Comitatus and Habeas Corpus.”

“That was repealed. Do you know how many firearms are in private hands in this county?”

“Yeah over 260 million. I was just curious; I have a bit more than that rifle I showed you.”

“You seem the type that would have either a 9mm or .45ACP pistol, an assault rifle and a personal defense shotgun.”

“And possibly more. Except for the rifle you’ve seen they’re all put up.”

“Feel free to dig them out, you’re pretty remote here and we don’t have enough people to provide protection for every ranch in Texas.”

“I don’t suppose you have access to any Mk 211 MP rounds, do you?”

“You have a Barrett, don’t you?”

“I have a McMillan Tac-50; it’s perfectly legal.”

“Raufoss isn’t in civilian hands.”

“I know, but I’d sure like to have some more.”

“What do you have?”

“Ball, AP, APIT and Raufoss HEIAP.”

“I’ll keep it and mind, but I can’t promise anything.”

“Thanks. Say, if someone in your unit gets hurt and you’re close by, we can render enough first aid to keep them going until you can arrange a medevac. Nothing fancy, IV fluids, Art-Cel bandages, oxygen and a defibrillator.”

“That would be nice, we have a Medic, but he can only carry limited supplies.”

“Derek is at the gate. I guess maybe he gave up looking for his unit.”

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“Tank Commander in a Cav unit? Where do I sign?”

“They’re only M1A1s.”

“The best one of the bunch for desert fighting. That’s the last unit I was trained on, perfect.”

“Derek, eat some supper. You’ll have to let Mary know where you’re going to be. I asked the Sergeant to see about getting me some Mk 211 MP ammo.”

“You’ll have to excuse my father, he seems to think he’s John Wayne.”

“Charles Bronson. I don’t like to ride horses.”

“Has he quoted Clint Eastwood to you yet?”

“Clint Eastwood? No, what’s that about, Dirty Harry?”

“Gunnery Sergeant Tom Highway from Heartbreak Ridge. Dad likes to remind people to improvise, adapt and overcome.”

“Sgt. Ott, I’m going to see if I can get him that Raufoss; I’ve just got to see him trying to handle the Tac-50.”

“Derek.”

“Sergeant Art Baker.”

“Dangerfield, Rodney,” I added. “I don’t get no respect. I played hide-and-seek, and they wouldn’t even look for me.”

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“It doesn’t sound like we need to hide the weapons in the shelter; maybe we should bring them and a few cases of ammo up here and put it in my den. I sure wish I had some stripper clips, it would make loading the magazines easier.”

“Do you need help bringing the weapons up?”

“I’m afraid I do. I have that cart to haul the stuff up on and the winches to pull it from landing to landing. However, I can’t carry the cases to the cart by myself. I will also need help when I get it to the deck, that ammo is heavy especially since I consolidated it to 1,260 rounds a case.”

You know the look your wife sometimes gives you when you ask her to help you do something? Sharon had helped me once before, stacking the ammo in the shelter. We loaded 2 cases of 7.62, 1 case of 5.56, 500-rounds of shotgun shells, 1 case each of 9mm and .45ACP and winched the cart between the platforms. Eventually, the ammo was all stacked in the den and I went after the Super Match and shotgun. The last trip I brought up the Tac-50 and then collapsed into a chair. I’m too old for this stuff.

This wasn't what I'd expected; sometimes the old crystal ball gets cloudy. With 100 days to consider it in the shelter, I'd convinced myself that Broom Hillary would go for a gun grab. It's possible she had in the cities hit by the nukes. Sgt. Baker might not know about the Dallas area, his unit was working outside of there. That only left a couple of questions, who were the bad guys and where were they? We should have bought a lot in town but I thought if people saw the shelter going in they'd know where to come when TSHTF. It wasn't a bad price for the 0.95 acres because it had water, septic, phone and power lines to the property.

It was too remote for just the two of us to defend for very long. The phones might or might not work, that would depend on whether or not the wires got cut. The Sheriff and Police used the new high frequency radios and we couldn't contact them on the Kenwood. Just thinking about it made my stomach hurt. Sharon pointed out that the walls wouldn't stop bullets.

"Then tell, me, what do you want to do? Live in the shelter? Get a place in town? Move Damon out here? Every time I try one thing, you find the problems after the plan is implemented. I'm will to do anything you say, but you have to decide, we can't keep moving things around."

I was po'd off more than I had been for a while. What would you do in the same situation? After 30+ years of marriage it seemed that I only thought I knew her. When it came to the mundane, I did much better; however, when she began to consider our longevity, I could always guess what she'd say. An example may clarify:

When she got her Fen Phen settlement, she had more on her plate than simply paying off the bills. Specifically, she rented a 5-yard dumpster and she and the girls cleaned out ½ the garage. That allowed them to install her new dryer and a new upright freezer. I had my own list and gave it to her to combine with the one she had. After she returned from Iowa, Amy and she installed additional shelves in the empty half of the garage and began to stock them. She also budgeted 3 grand for me to spend on guns and ammo. I bought my rifle, magazines and ammo and spent the rest at KI4U.

She was making trips to various stores and picking up a little at a time. One day she came home with 1 case of diced tomatoes and 4 cases of green beans. When I checked further, I discovered another 1½ cases of tomatoes and a case of Green Giant Niblets. She did it her way instead of my way and the end result was the same. When they took the poll on the forum, I could answer honestly that we could go for 100 days. Not long after, we packed up and moved to Texas. Later, when TSHTF we were beyond ready. Often, the simple foods are easier to prepare, especially during an emergency. We bought what we ate and ate what we bought.

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Her decision was to rent an apartment in Paris. We were only 10 minutes away from home which meant we only need to take a few things to the furnished apartment. We

had the cable connected so we had an internet connection and TV. Rather than get phone service, we relied on her cell phone. We took the cart back to the basement and grabbed full cases/cartons of the food and supplies we wanted and we moved the weapons and ammo from the house to the apartment. How would you describe this, bugging-in? We ended up going back to the house to get the things we overlooked including a portable CB, the dosimeter charger and the CD V-715. I also brought our 7kw generator and 5 jerry cans of gas.

I tracked down Sgt. Baker and told him our new address. He said he didn't have what I wanted but had a line on some and would get it when he could. The main problem was justifying the Mk 211 MP for their Ma Deuce. He said that if he could get it, it would be linked and I have strip the links. Derek's Platoon Leader had made Derek his 'wing-man'. They were down in the Dallas area.

While Sharon felt better in Paris, I felt like we'd moved from the frying pan to the fire. She took me to a Radio Shack and I picked up a Uniden BC246T 2500-Channel Trunking Radio Scanner I could wear it on my belt. The clerk programmed in the frequencies the Sheriff and Police used. It also monitored some weather channels.

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Because the attacks weren't a full blown nuclear war, we didn't have the resultant nuclear winter/summer. If anything, global warming was getting worse. For the first time in recent memory, the only US Aircraft carrier that wasn't at home here in America was the carrier strike group stationed in Yokosuka. The Navy had shuffled carriers and it wasn't the George H.W. Bush, but CVN-68, the Nimitz. The world outlook wasn't good.

North Korea stopped testing nuclear weapons and seemed to be concentrating on making the Taepodong-2 missile fly; they'd tested 2 more of those. Russia vetoed the Resolution put forth by the Security Council to halt Iran's nuclear enrichment program. Israel was still fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Several world leaders had died, Ariel Sharon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter to name a few. Putin had been replaced in Russia but seemed to be pulling strings from behind the scene. Labor had a close call in Great Britain, narrowly retaining the majority in Parliament. The country offering the US the most aid in cleaning up the cities was China.

As we entered the last year of the first decade of the 21st Century our worst problem wasn't the Major Public Emergency caused by the terrorist attacks, it was the economy. We had a fuel shortage, raising the price of gas; we had a worldwide food shortage cause in part by the ongoing drought in Australia and poor crops in the Midwest. A buck wasn't worth the paper it was printed on and the most prominent currency in the world was the Euro. The Euro now traded for \$1.75, give or take. Compared to the Euro, the price of gold was unchanged; here, it was up to \$900 an ounce.

During her first year in office, Broom Hillary had managed to: declare the first Major Public Emergency, push Hillarycare through Congress, require full registration of fire-

arms, forced full compliance with the embedded chip program and issued Internal Passports and travel documents. Goals she failed to accomplish were Congressional approval of embryonic stem cell research, approval of gay marriage and any change on the Congressional position on abortion. So far, she couldn't overcome the conservative Christian voting bloc. Fox news ran a special covering the 8 cities that had been bombed and raising the question, "Why hadn't Washington been bombed?"

Around Thanksgiving Hillary reported to Congress that the Major Public Emergency was over and she was restoring Posse Comitatus and Habeas Corpus. However, I'm getting ahead of my story. During the spring and summer, we replaced the lower 2 stands of barbed wire with pig wire overlain with chicken mesh and used the barbed wire to top the fence with homemade concertina. We built a kennel and let the dogs run our acreage hopefully to keep away intruders. Missy would have barked first and then, lick them to death.

We made daily trips to the acreage to tend to our garden; it was slightly bigger this year. In late September faced with the rising prices and our fixed incomes, we moved back to the house. It appeared that we weren't going to be attacked by gangsters or MZBs. Besides, Sgt. Baker had come up with ~1,200 rounds of Raufoss and I'd shown him I could handle the Tac-50 out to 1,500 meters. I ignored the snickering. When Derek was released from active duty, he was sporting the fifth stripe, having made Sergeant First Class. He had also permanently transferred back to an armor unit. Amy was working for Lamar County and Damon and Lorrie helped with the garden and canning.

I sent my dosimeters and survey meters down to Gonzales to have them recalibrated and refilled our supplies of KIO_3 and Prussian Blue. The money we saved by closing the apartment went into buying additional supplies of food. We were preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. I had yet to fire a gun in self-defense or anger. I did however, acquire a few new guns.

From Marlin, we got 2 1895 Cowboys in .45-70 and 2 1894 Cowboys in .45 Colt. From Colt, we acquired all 3 of the SAAs, a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", case hardened frames and all blued in .45 Colt. From Kirkpatrick Leather Company we acquired Laredoan rigs, a crossdraw for me, and a single for her. She had room for extra cartridge loops, so we added 18 for the .45-70.

I figured we'd have a problem if the US got into another war and went shopping for an old Jeep. What we found was an old Jeep CJ-5. It needed a lot of work although it sort of ran. I'm sure you know my thinking; we needed something that would run in the event of an EMP. I'll only quit preparing when I die. The Jeep needed the engine and transmission rebuilt, brakes, some new wiring and a new radiator. While they were at it, I replaced the battery, added a Warn winch to the front and installed an auxiliary fuel tank. The engine was a Perkins diesel. The vehicle needed a coat of paint, so I had it painted OD flat. We also replaced the rag top with an OD canvas top. We ended up with a like-new spare vehicle and I didn't have a driver's license.

I practiced driving around the acreage and got the driver's license book in Paris. I passed the written test the second time I took it and passed the driving test with a few points to spare. I felt better getting my driver's license back than I did when I first got it at age 16. A Martin Luther King statement seems appropriate, *Free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last*. You know the speech, I mean, *I Have A Dream*:

And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

*Free at last! Free at last!
Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!*